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KENT ON SUNDAY

Published by KOS MEDIA LTD. Telephone: (01303) 817000

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HOSPITALS' £3M TAX ON PATIENTS

Anger at 'scandal' of parking fees for sick people and their visitors

By STEVE KNIGHT

HOSPITAL trusts have come under fire after it was revealed patients and people visiting the ill and dying had been charged more than £3 million in parking fees.

Last year, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust spent £582,940 on the upkeep of parking facilities at its five hospitals – but raked in just over £1.6m in return.

The figure has been attacked by patient watchdogs who are calling for parking charges to either be reduced or scrapped altogether.

Michael Summers, vice-chairman of The Patients Association, told Kent on Sunday he felt such huge profits were "somewhat of a scandal".

He added: "In a report that came out a couple of months ago it found a profit of £111m from car parking in England, and that's extortionate. This seems to be a tax on families and patients.

"Patients in the 21st century shouldn't have to worry about how long they are going to be inside a hospital. Who knows where the profits go either?

"Scotland and Wales have done away with car parking charges and they don't appear to have suffered any problems, so if it can be done elsewhere in the UK, then why can't it be done in England?"

East Kent Hospitals is one of the country's largest NHS trusts, overseeing the running of five hospitals in its region.

These include Buckland Hospital in Dover, Kent and Canterbury Hospital in Canterbury, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital in Margate, Royal Victoria Hospital in Folkestone, and William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

Its parking figures for 2008-09 were revealed in an article in the consumer magazine Which?, which compared the profit margins of 23 of England's busiest trusts.

East Kent Hospitals was found to have the third largest profit margin of 175 per cent, behind only Norfolk and Norwich (£1.1m, 534 per cent) and Southampton (£1.4m, 376 per cent).

The magazine's health policy advisor Claire Lilley said: "The NHS principle is that healthcare is funded through taxation, not by patients paying for ancillary services.

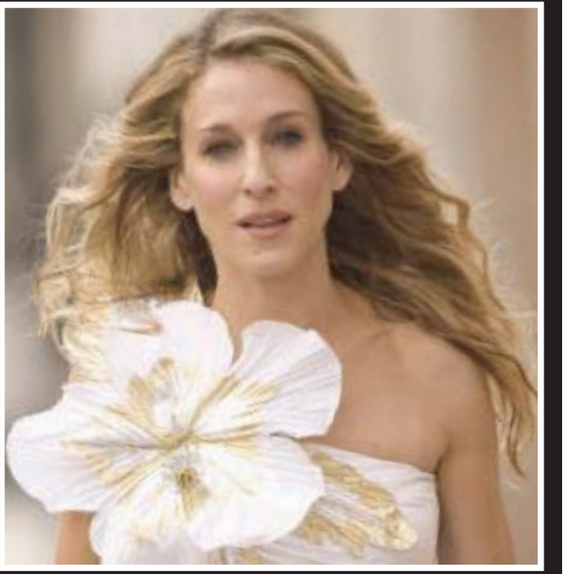
"Our research shows high charges don't always result in high profits but, where they do, these charges should be reduced."

Which? obtained its statistics through the Freedom of Information Act, giving each trust 20 days to supply the necessary figures.

None of Kent's five other trusts had its 2008-09 profit margins available when they were requested this week by Kent on Sunday, but Medway revealed it had received £930,000 revenue from parking fees last year, and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells raked in just over £900,000.

Bexley, and Dartford and Gravesham, NHS Trusts made neither a profit nor a loss, as their car

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



TV stars 'are to blame' for county's £1.5m Viagra bill

FOR FULL STORY SEE INSIDE

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'Our priority is healthcare not parking'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

parks are managed and maintained by outside firms.

Despite East Kent's huge profit, head of operational estates Chris Hurley pointed out that the trust runs more car parks than any other in the county and that its prices – £2.70 for four hours – were some of the lowest in the South East.

He said: "The car parking charges at our hospitals pay for the car parking running costs, such as maintenance, lighting, CCTV, car park attendants, administration costs and capital charges, and any surplus is used for patient care.

"If car parking was provided free then we would be faced with costs of hundreds of thousands of pounds – money which would have to come from our patient care budget."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said car parking charges were decided by individual trusts, but exemption and concessionary schemes should be in place for regular patients and carers, which they are at East Kent Hospitals.

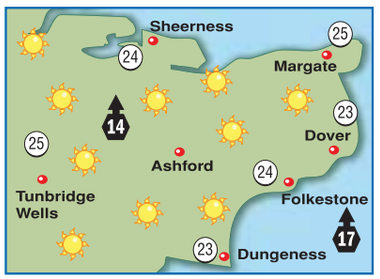
He also said the department did not agree with free parking, adding: "Our priority is the speed and quality of healthcare.

"In Scotland and Wales, where they have started subsidising free parking for all, hospital car-parking is being abused and patients and staff who need to use the car parks are complaining that they can't find anywhere to park.

"Waiting times in England are shorter than in Scotland and Wales.

"It costs hospitals money to administer car parks and if they don't charge they have less money for patients."

Kent today



TODAY: A fine day is forecast, as it will be dry with long spells of strong sunshine and little in the way of cloud. There will be light to moderate southerly winds. Feeling very warm. Max temp 23-26C (73-79F).

TONIGHT: A dry night with clear spells and variable cloud. Gentle winds. Min temp 12-15C (54-59F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	thunder	17	63	London	sun	26	79
Belfast	rain	18	64	Liverpool	rain	21	70
Birmingham	drizzle	23	73	Manchester	rain	22	72
B'mouth	sun	23	73	Newcastle	rain	21	70
Bristol	fair	20	68	Norwich	sun	25	77
Cardiff	rain	21	70	Oxford	fair	23	73
Cork	rain	17	63	Southsea	sun	24	75
Edinburgh	rain	19	66	S'hampton	sun	23	73
Glasgow	rain	18	64	Southport	rain	21	70
Isle of Man	thunder	19	66	Swansea	rain	20	68
Leeds	rain	21	70	Torquay	cloudy	20	68

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.53am	Sunset	8.02pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	10.04am	Moonset	8.41pm	8.02pm to 5.55am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	01.36	6.8	13.52	7.1	02.15	6.7	14.30	6.9
Margate	02.51	5.0	14.51	5.0	03.30	4.9	15.30	5.0
St Mary's	07.24	5.8	19.42	5.9	08.03	5.6	20.21	5.6

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells. max 23C min 13C

tuesday Early showers. max 22C min 13C

wednesday Isolated showers. max 22C min 14C

thursday Sunny spells. max 22C min 14C

friday Sunny spells. max 22C min 13C

saturday Showers, heavy. max 20C min 12C

Fraudster kept £8,000 from children's charity

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A GAMBLING addict has escaped with just a suspended prison sentence after he defrauded a charity for terminally ill children out of more than £8,000.

Gary Ferris, from Sweet Bay Crescent, Ashford, pleaded guilty to organising fake fundraising events for the charity Hopes & Dreams, which raises money to give critically sick children and young people the opportunity to enjoy special holidays and trips.

The 38-year-old admitted 15 fraud offences after an investigation by Kent Police's serious economic crime unit (SECU).

He was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years, and 180 hours of community service, at Canterbury Crown Court on Friday.

Det Insp Mark Fairhurst from the SECU, said: "While many people raise funds for good causes legitimately, Gary Ferris used money he had raised for charity to fund his gambling habits.

"He took advantage of people wanting to donate money to help ill children and in doing so undermined the reputation of the Hopes & Dreams charity.

"His actions have caused distress to those who offered their premises in good faith and attended the events.

"Kent Police advises publicans and people hosting events to check with the charity to make sure it is genuine."

Ferris organised a number of charity 'race nights' at clubs and pubs across Kent and three other counties, claiming money would go towards the charity based in Redbridge, Essex.

GUILTY: Gary Ferris held fundraising nights for the Hopes & Dreams charity, but instead used the cash to fund his gambling habit

He held several events a week where the public would bet on horse races shown on a DVD and prizes were given out, using the name Funtime Racetime.

After he contacted the charity in 2007, they told him they would welcome any money raised but they could not endorse the events with their logo.

Event-goers believed they were raising funds for Hopes & Dreams and at the end of the nights the total amount raised would be announced.

Venues were promised a certificate from the charity confirming the amount donated at a later date.

But publicans who had allowed Ferris to use their pubs for the race nights contacted Hopes & Dreams, in February last year, concerned they had not received a certificate.

The charity then called the police.

Kent Police said the SECU's investigation focused on race night events held after September, 2007, at 15 locations across the county and in Essex, Norfolk and Surrey.

In Kent, Ferris staged fundraisers in Chatham, Dartford, Margate, Rochester and Sittingbourne.

In total the events raised £8,180, but none of it was given to the charity.

After he was arrested in August last year, Ferris admitted during police interviews that he had an online gambling addiction that had left him tens of thousands of pounds in debt and resulted in the loss of his house and car.

Canterbury Crown Court's Judge van der Bijl said: "This is a very serious matter, especially as a charity was defrauded out of a large sum."

Legal proceedings are continuing to try and confiscate Ferris' property, with the case to be heard at a later date.

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Printed by Archant Print.

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As Kent's NHS spends £1.5m a year on Viagra, expert says...

TV causes rise in expectations

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SEX-themed television shows have been blamed for an increase in the amount the NHS splashes out on Viagra-type medication.

According to Frank Furedi, professor of sociology at the University of Kent, programmes such as Entourage, Sex and the City and even BBC historical drama The Tudors are putting men under greater pressure to perform in the bedroom.

Last year primary care trusts in Kent spent a total of £1,574,383 on erectile dysfunction drugs including Viagra – an increase of just over £120,000 from 2007.

The famous blue sex pill was discovered at Pfizer's Sandwich plant.

Prof Furedi said: "Sexual scenes on television are a lot more graphic these days and sex is discussed a lot more openly than it was before.

"What people see is a wonderful, trouble-free experience and it can often put them under pressure to perform at the highest possible standards.

"There was a time when people received sex advice from friends but now attitudes and images of sex come straight from Hollywood, and they make people expect the best.

BAD INFLUENCE: Prof Frank Furedi, inset, blames TV shows such as Sex and the City for an increased pressure on men to perform, leading to greater use of sex pills

"In reality people can feel quite anxious about it and it's not always as perfect as the people on television make out. It has become more and more glamorised over the years.

"There is quite a lot of research now that Viagra is used as a recreational drug to enhance performance. Men use it to overcome performance anxiety and also women use it, although the jury is still out on whether they get extra pleasure from using it."

'Severe stress'

According to figures from the NHS Business Services Authority, Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT spends the most in the county and the sixth-most nationally on Viagra-type pills. Last year it paid out £593,417 for the medication – a rise of £52,591 from 2007.

West Kent PCT spent the second largest amount of £496,389 (up £22,584), with Bromley splashing out £203,454 (up £27,180), Medway £144,470 (£12,538) and Bexley Care Trust £136,651 (£8,629).

According to guidelines, such medication should only be prescribed to men who have other underlying health problems or who are suffering "severe stress" from being impotent.

However, speculation persists that GPs are becoming lenient in dishing out Viagra-type drugs so patients do not turn to the internet.

A Department of Health spokesman said: "It is important to take great care when buying medicines over the internet. We urge anyone thinking about doing so to consult s GP first."

'Whispering' sergeant sues police over dog job

A QUIET former sergeant is suing Kent Police after being denied the opportunity to become a dog-handler.

Force bosses told Catherine Gilbert, 35, from Sittingbourne, she would have found it virtually impossible to give clear orders to the animals due to her suffering from the rare voice disorder spasmodic dysphonia.

But Miss Gilbert, who quit in 2005 following a pay dispute, feels aggrieved she was not even allowed to try.

Speaking at an employment tribunal in Ashford, her representative Alison Gordon said the force did not make enough "reasonable adjustments" to accommodate her condition, adding: "She was not given the opportunity to carry out the dog training."

Spasmodic dysphonia is a rare disorder in which one or more muscles of the voice box move involuntarily, causing a sufferer's speech to sound abnormally high or tight.

There is currently no cure, although effects can be lessend with treatments such as botox.

Miss Gilbert showed early symptoms in 1997, but was not diagnosed until 2005, after which she went on sick leave before quitting.

Today she works as a court stenographer at the Old Bailey and says her voice has seen a 50 per cent improvement since she started taking botox.

However, Miss Gilbert told the tribunal that when employed by Kent Police the force failed to make "reasonable adjustments" for her condition, leaving her unable to communicate with colleagues or use the telephone without difficulty. She added that she was not offered any counselling to help cope.

But tribunal chairman Martin Kurrein warned: "The Disability Discrimination Act is not a charter to blame someone for everything that happens to them in life."

He also said he found it difficult to understand why Miss Gilbert felt discriminated against when she was asked to attend a review meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable following her resignation.

Should Miss Gilbert be successful, she stands to win tens of thousands of pounds.

The tribunal was adjourned until March next year for a full eight-day hearing.

Murder charge

A MAN appeared in front of Margate magistrates on Wednesday charged with murdering his lodger.

Paul Prendergast, 44, of Margate Road, Ramsgate, spoke only to confirm his name, age and address. He is accused of stabbing Cathal David Hughes, 34, at their home on August 16.

He was committed to appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday, September 2.

A 16-year-old youth and a 20-year-old woman arrested in connection with the case have been released without charge.

Racist attack

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after an alleged racist assault in Dover.

A 25-year-old man from Iraq was walking to work along the High Street at about 1pm on Tuesday when a shirtless man allegedly poked him in the chest and started making racist comments about illegal immigrants.

The white attacker is middle-aged with grey hair and wore tracksuit bottoms with no top.

A man in his 40s was arrested and was bailed while officers make further inquiries.

To see this clip search 'folk'
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Broadstairs Folk Week's festival director Jo Tuffs discusses the popularity of the annual event.

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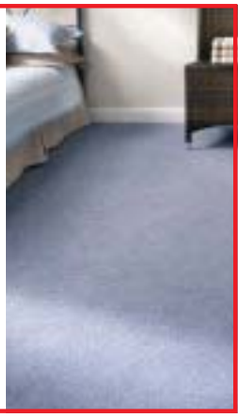

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All in a name for port

FERRY company P&O has poked fun at the rebranding of Oxford Airport by suggesting a similar name change for the Port of Dover.

Bosses at the airport in Kidlington village have been ridiculed for renaming it London Oxford Airport, despite the town being more than 50 miles away from the capital's centre.

Now P&O has jumped in on the act by making a tongue-in-cheek suggestion the Port of Dover should be rebranded ParisDoverPort to reflect its "close proximity" to the most romantic city in the world.

Spokesman Brian Rees said: "The imagination applied to airport names is pure genius.

"Frankfurt-Hahn is nowhere near Frankfurt, Barcelona Girona isn't exactly handy for Barcelona, and Oslo-Torp is a heck of a journey from Oslo. To be fair London Ashford Airport (Lydd) is close to Ashford and Lydd, and just 70 miles from London.

"By airline standards the nation's busiest passenger port is a stone's throw from one of the most exciting capital cities on the planet. Perhaps we should be saying welcome to ParisDoverPort."

According to the International Air Transport Association, just five airports – London City, Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton and Stansted – are officially linked with the capital.

Travel expert Simon Calder told the BBC he could understand why airports like Oxford and Ashford would want to change their names.

He said: "Far more people fly in and out of the five recognised London airports than any other city's airport systems, including New York and Tokyo.

"It's natural that airports would want to capitalise on that. Everyone, both airlines and airports, are desperate for business."

NAME CHANGE: P&O's Brian Rees

Wealthy feel hurt of unemployment

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

AFFLUENT areas in west Kent have seen increases in unemployment of more than 180 per cent in a year, the latest figures show.

Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and Malling have the lowest rates of people out of work in the county, with July unemployment at 2.2 per cent, 2.1 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively.

But Sevenoaks has seen an increase in people out of work of 181.2 per cent (from 937 people in 2008 to 1,454 in 2009) and in Tunbridge Wells unemployment has risen 158.5 per cent (from 864 in 2008 to 1,409 in 2009).

A Kent County Council spokeswoman said: "Seeing such large increases is obviously of concern. Bearing in mind a large proportion of the workforce commutes, and with up to two thirds of west Kent commuters working in highly skilled occupations, it is suspected it is the financial services sector where these jobs are lost."

Cllr Kevin Lynes, KCC's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said unemployment had not been a problem in places like Sevenoaks before, and there was even talk of opening a Job Centre in the town for the first time.

"The issues there are much more acute, and as in Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling, the kind of people who are finding themselves looking for work now are perhaps out of work for the first time in an age. They tend to have quiet specialised skills and we need to do everything to support them."

He said one silver lining of this unemployment was that many of those out of work and possibly with large redundancy payouts were now looking to start their own businesses in Kent.

In the east of the county, Thanet continues to have the highest proportion of claimants in Kent at 5.5 per cent (3,970 people), which is higher than the national rate of 4.1 per cent. However, there has been no increase since last month in the number of claimants. The figure has increased by 66.9 per cent since last July.

The TUC found that seaside resorts, such as Margate and Herne Bay, had seen an increase in unemployment this July despite more people taking a 'staycation' due to the recession.

Crisis level

General secretary Brendan Barber said: "Millions are opting to save money during the downturn and have rediscovered what great holidays you can have in the UK.

"However, in spite of this welcome boost to the UK's seaside resorts, unemployment is at crisis level in many of our best-loved English holiday destinations.

"Many seaside towns have made impressive efforts to regenerate, but cannot buck the effects of a deep recession."

Overall, the unemployment rate for the area KCC covers is 3.2 per cent (27,046 people), which is slightly down on last month by 0.6 per cent. Kent as a whole, including Medway, saw an increase in unemployment of 0.1 per cent in July, with 34,157 people out of work.

Four districts, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Swale, saw a drop in unemployment since June.

Nine-hour wait pays off with 99p camcorder

A MOTHER queued for nine hours before a new store opened in Ashford so she could get a camcorder for under a pound.

One shop chain continues to expand despite Britain's recession – The 99p Store.

On Friday the company opened its 99th shop in the old Woolworths building in the town.

Tracy Anderson, 43, from Ashford, was at the front of the long queue and bought a camcorder for 99p for her 15-year-old daughter Jamie-Leigh, as well as buying some toys for her grandchildren.

To see this clip search 'safe' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

The Stay Safe in Summer 2009 campaign, aims to help us prevent illness at home and abroad

Air ambulance called to crash on motorway

A MOTORCYCLIST was air-lifted to hospital after suffering life-threatening injuries in a crash on a motorway.

The man, who is in his 40s, injured his chest and pelvis in the accident at 11.20am on Friday where the M26 joins the clockwise M25.

Police said no other vehicles were believed to have been involved.

The M26 was closed while the biker was flown by air ambulance to King's College Hospital in London and the motorway was cleared of debris.

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Rookie director needs cash to make village of living dead come alive

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A ZOMBIE invasion of one of Kent's smallest villages could help fund an ambitious movie project.

Rookie director Antony Lane hopes to raise £100,000 for his eagerly-anticipated film Invasion of the Not Quite Dead.

And last Sunday he took a big step in attracting potential investors by shooting a one-minute teaser at a farm in Linton, near Maidstone, which has a population of about 500.

Oscar-winning film-maker Ken Russell is one of several Hollywood names to have lent his support to the project, which has already attracted a cult following from horror fans.

Invasion of the Not Quite Dead is a black comedy-horror about a deadly virus that is unleashed upon the residents of a small island off the coast of the UK. It tells the tale of a group of survivors who band together to overcome the zombies left in the virus's wake.

Thirty-year-old Lane, who lives in Orpington and is a graduate of the International Film School Wales, told Kent on Sunday he had raised £10,000 towards the film in two months.

He said: "I'd been spending between 10 and 15 hours a day attempting to raise funds, but I put a halt to it about three weeks ago because I thought my time would be better spent making a promo-trailer – firstly to thank the fans for believing in the project, and secondly because it will make it easier to sell the film to potential financiers.

"The day of the shooting was probably the best of my life because it threw me in at the deep end. It was the first time I'd directed something like this before and it really opened my eyes as to how everything works.

"I love the interaction with the fans, but it's very frustrating having to do so much fundraising because I'm a very creative person and I would love to be able to start filming the main feature now."

Enthusiasm

The teaser for Invasion of the Not Quite Dead was shot in and around Rankins Farm in Linton, which is situated on the A229 between Staplehurst and Maidstone.

Horror actor Leslie Simpson took part in the filming along with about 14 extras who were invited along as a way to say thank you to them for investing money in the project.

Lane said he hoped the teaser would be edited and ready for distribution by Halloween.

He added: "I think it will open a lot more doors. I've been saying to people 'here's my synopsis and my poster and my enthusiasm', but I have no real proof that I'm not going to walk away with their money.

"This will show I'm a man of my word. I think with the teaser that people and other groups with more money will be able to see that this is going to be a really good horror film and therefore donate a lot quicker."

Other Hollywood names to have voiced their support for the movie include The Usual Suspects star Kevin Pollack and Night of the Living Dead director Tom Savini, while a number of leading special effects and make-up artists have also signed up to help.

The supposedly-haunted Chislehurst Caves in Bromley are among the locations Lane hopes to shoot the film in, which is scheduled for a Halloween, 2010, release.

Lane said: "I live in Kent and I think it's nice to film scenes nearby as a way of saying thank you to all the local people who have supported me.

"I also lived in South Wales for a time and I grew up in Grimsby, so I'll be looking to shoot in those places as well."

GRAND IDEA: Anhony Lane's film has the support of top names within the film industry including the legendary Ken Russell (above)

MADE UP: Antony talks over a scene with one of his village zombies

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This weeks
Homes and Gardens
starts on page 31
KENT ON SATURDAY KENT ON SUNDAY

More officers to be armed with tasers

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE use of taser guns is set to be extended to police officers other than members of the trained firearms squad who are currently issued with the weapons.

Kent Police's Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said the force's 116 tasers were an "invaluable tool" for protecting members of the public and officers.

The force said the weapons have been called out to incidents nearly 100 times since 2005. But it seems the threat of being shocked with 50,000 volts of electricity is enough to make suspects surrender as they have only been fired four times in total.

Kent Police received 66 of its weapons in May after successfully bidding for a share of an £8 million Home Office fund made available to extend their use nationally.

This week, a police spokeswoman said following a review of taser use they would be extended to "other units within the force".

She said at the moment only trained firearms officers used the stun guns, but could not reveal which other officers were likely to be armed with them in the future because it has not yet been decided.

FEAR FACTOR: Tasers have been called out nearly 100 times, but fired only four times

New figures released by the Home Office this week show police in the county have fired tasers four times since April, 2004, with half of the discharges being since July, 2007.

The Kent spokeswoman said a 'discharge' is when the two barbed darts are fired out, giving a five-second electric shock to the suspect.

Figures show the force has used tasers a total of 34 times and 25 of the uses have occurred since July, 2007. The majority of uses involved 'red dots', which means the safety is removed and the laser sight activated and placed on a suspect, but not fired.

ACC Adams said: "Since their deployment, we have seen that tasers are an invaluable tool in protecting the public and our officers.

"Tasers are a deterrent that calm tense, violent situations. As the figures show, just the act of drawing a taser is enough to make offenders compliant."

Government figures show officers have 'arced' tasers twice, which is sparking the gun without a cartridge being fired.

Police have drawn the weapons nine times.

Kent Police have not made use of 'drive stun' function – when the stun gun is pressed against a suspect and turned around, which gives an electric shock without firing the darts.

Teen accused of setting hair alight

A TEENAGE boy has been arrested for allegedly setting a woman's hair alight.

The 16-year-old from Swanley is accused of holding out a lighter as the Swedish teacher, who had taken a group of pupils on a day trip to London, was walking through the carriage of a Hastings to Charing Cross train on Sunday, July 19. She was able to pat the fire out but police say the incident left her distressed.

The youth, who was arrested on suspicion of attempted GBH, has been bailed until September 29.

Church court bid

A HERITAGE group opposed to the demolition of a 19th century church building has launched a High Court challenge against Gravesham council.

Permission was granted to knock down the building in Clarence Place, Gravesend, which until recently has been used as a Sikh gurdwara, or temple. The Sikh community want to sell the land to help fund their £13 million new gurdwara in the town.

However, the charity Save Britain's Heritage claims the council has gone against its own conservation policy by allowing the plans.

The injunction case is due to be heard at the High Court on September 4.

Charity boss visit

THE chief executive of Barnardo's will be giving a lecture in Rochester next month.

Martin Narey will focus on child poverty and disadvantage during the council-run event.

The lecture is at the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School on September 23. Tickets are free but booking is essential on 01634 331055 or emma.spencer@medway.gov.uk.

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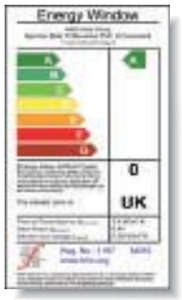

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Jackson printing job was definite Thriller

RUSH JOB: New book

PRINTERS in Medway pulled out all the stops to produce the first run of a controversial Michael Jackson biography only three weeks after his death.

CPI Mackays in Chatham met an Off The Wall schedule of printing 50,000 books in just five days, not Bad considering the firm is more used to producing just 6,000 copies in up to four days.

Paul Rowland, general manager of customer services, said the rush started after the company got a telephone call from David Hyde, the production director of publisher Simon & Schuster UK about one of their books.

The publishers wanted tens of thousands of copies of Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson by Ian Halperin in record time.

"When we received the call it seemed an impossible task, however it was our chance to show what we can achieve," Mr Rowland said.

When the King of Pop died on June 25, there was a rush to be the first to release a biography of Jackson's incredible career and strange private life.

All were keen to cash in on the huge spike in book and album sales after Jacko died in Los Angeles, aged 50.

Halperin, an investigative journalist, had predicted Jackson had only six months to live in December, 2008.

After the prediction came true and Jacko died leaving a trail of questions around prescription drug addiction, his love life, and children, the publisher hoped readers were eager to hear more from Halperin.

And the biography was an instant bestseller, but Mr Rowland said: "It's not a fans' book, it is controversial. Someone described it as like reading a book of The Sun."

Halperin had been working for five years on the 312-page biography, and it was on bookshop shelves on July 15 thanks to the Chatham printers.

Anger at railway fare hikes

A RAIL passenger group has warned thousands of hard-hit commuters face "travel poverty" after the Govern-ment exempted Southeast-ern Trains from a national decrease in fares.

Over the past three years the network has increased prices significantly above the rate of inflation.

Downing Street

It is one of only two regions not to benefit from the 0.4 per cent reduction in ticket costs later this year.

Season ticket prices will now rise by 1.6 per cent from next January as Kent is on a five-year franchise deal permitting Southeastern Trains to increase fares at a higher rate than the rest of the country.

By **NEILL BARSTON**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Train companies base their annual price increase for fares regulated by the Government, such as season tickets, on the retail price index (RPI) for July, plus one per cent.

However, under its franchise agreement with the Department for Transport, Southeastern is allowed to add three per cent to the RPI figure.

It will mean an average increase of £50 a year on a season ticket.

The move prompted an angry response from MPs and Medway-based Fair's Fare on Southeastern Trains campaign group, which is petitioning Downing Street to re-think.

Campaign leader Chris Irvine, said: "The Government has defined those who are in fuel poverty as being anyone spending 10 per cent on heating costs. I already spend more than 10 per cent of my wages on travel to work, does this mean people like me will be in fuel poverty now?

"I would love to use the high-speed link, but it's going to cost over £4,000 for a season ticket that I can't afford."

The IT administrator said the new high-speed link, due to start in December, would cost Medway rail users a premium of at least 30 per cent for the new service – compared to 20 per cent for Ashford commuters.

Astonished

He said last year regulated fares rose by an inflation-busting eight per cent, with some off-peak travel costs to London increasing by as much as 18 per cent – which he said was not helping to encourage people onto an environmentally-friendly travel system.

Passenger Focus, which represents commuters from across the UK also expressed concern at the fare hikes.

Director Ashwin Kumar said: "Passengers in Kent will be astonished if they have to pay higher fares for their train tickets next year. We need to question whether fares can keep on rising faster than inflation."

Thanet North Tory MP Roger Gale has branded the new high-speed line and its resulting cut in services to some areas as "pay more get less".

A Southeastern spokesman said the fare increases came at a time of high investment in Kent's rail network.

He said: "All regulated fares are subject to (DfT) regulations and as a result in January, 2010, our average regulated fare will increase by the RPI plus three per cent, as set out in our franchise agreement. It is the Government's stated policy to recoup more of the cost of rail services from those who use them, and decrease the contribution from taxpayers. In line with this, the subsidy paid to Southeastern is decreasing over the lifetime of the franchise."

Drug-driving by the young is on the rise

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

INCREASING numbers of young people are consuming a cocktail of drugs and alcohol before driving, according to a senior police officer.

Acting Chief Inspector Paul Sellwood, the head of Kent's road policing unit, warned motorists that his officers were getting better at catching drug-drivers.

The latest figures show a 64 per cent increase in drug-driving arrests between January and July this year, compared to the same period in 2007.

Insp Sellwood said the younger generation was driving after mixing drink, which did not necessarily put them over the limit, with drugs such as ecstasy tablets, amphetamines, cannabis and cocaine.

The Department for Transport launched an advertising campaign on Monday warning of the risks of driving after taking drugs.

It comes after research showed one-in-10 young male drivers admitted drug-driving. It is estimated that one-in-five drivers killed in road accidents had taken an impairing drug.

Scars

The £2.3million campaign is led by a TV ad warning drivers that police can spot signs of drug use with the legend "your eyes will give you away".

Insp Sellwood told KoS that Kent Police's last campaign to tackle the issue highlighted that drug-drivers were gambling with more than losing their licence, a fine of up to £5,000 and even imprisonment.

"The summer campaign was to hammer home to younger drivers do not gamble with your looks, careers and licences.

"Especially in the current financial climate, if lose your licence, you could lose your job, your income and even your home, so do not gamble with these things.

"Looks are important to young people... if you go through a windscreen you can permanently ruin your looks with scars."

So far this year in Kent there have been 28 arrests for drug-driving compared to 17 for the first seven months of 2007. Last year there were 41 arrests for the offence.

GIVEAWAY: The latest campaign against drug-driving focuses on motorists' eyes

Insp Sellwood said that during the last campaign in June, there was a 266 per cent increase in the number of people who failed the field impairment test for drug-driving, compared to last year.

He said the test showed how a driver's balance, co-ordination and speed of mind was working: "One of the tests is counting up to 20 and seeing how long someone's mind is taking. For example on speed people count very quickly and think that's normal... it gives us an indication of whether they are impaired through drugs.

"We do this at the roadside. If it indicates they could be impaired we arrest them and take them into custody where a blood sample will be taken. We treat them in the same way as a drunk driver.

"We've found these tests very effective."

Around 250 people a month are arrested for drink and/or drug driving in Kent.

Insp Sellwood said police forces were putting pressure on the Government for a roadside testing device for drug-drivers that works in a similar way to the breathalyser equipment used on drink-drivers. The technology is available, but it needs to have legislation in place and be approved by the Home Office.

He added that driving under the influence of prescription drugs could be just as dangerous.

"We don't look necessarily at what you are taking, because it is based on the ability to drive and whether you are impaired, that is the offence," he said

Medal for officer

A KENT and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority member is to receive the prestigious Kent Medal.

Lydd resident, Cllr Fred Wood-Brignall will be presented with the honour for his work with Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

The Kent Medal has been awarded to only 21 people since its creation 13 years ago.

Cllr Wood-Brignall first became involved with the Fire Service in 1959 when at the age of 27 he became a retained fireman, climbing the ranks to become a leading fireman in 1971.

He was promoted to Officer in Charge of Lydd Fire Station in 1979, and has been a member of the KMFRA since 1998.

Kent's Chief Fire Officer Charlie Hendry said: "He is a very hard working, visible and supportive member and has served KFRS for 50 years, which in itself is testimony to his commitment to the service."

VAT fraud arrests

SEVEN people have been arrested as part of a major fraud investigation into the trading of 'carbon credits'.

HM Revenue & Customs officers investigating a suspected £38 million VAT fraud swooped in early morning raids on Wednesday.

The arrests of six men and a woman were made during raids on 27 residential and business properties in Erith and Gravesend in Kent, and Hounslow, Southall and Isleworth in London. Officers used sniffer dogs during the searches to hunt for cash.

The officers are investigating an organised crime group operating a network of companies trading large volumes of high-value carbon credits. The fraudulent companies purchase carbon credits from overseas VAT-free sources and then sell them on to businesses in the UK at a VAT-inclusive price.

The VAT charged by the fraudulent companies is never paid to the Government.

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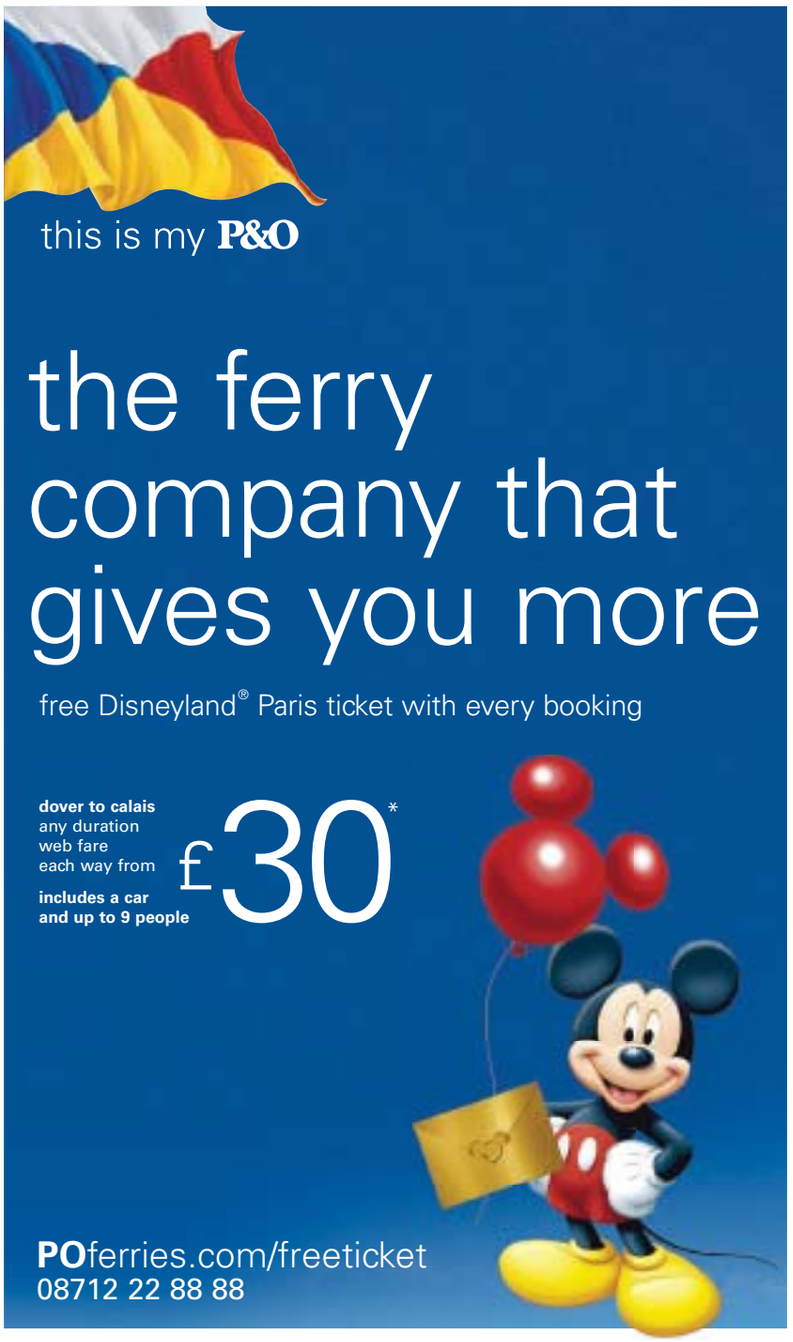

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Widdecombe in thge dark over Vatican rumour

ANN Widdecombe has played down reports that she has been approached to become the next British ambassador to the Vatican.

The Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald, who is standing down at the next election, was responding to reports in the national press that she was front-runner for the Holy See position.

"I have not heard a single official whisper," she said. "The comments have all come from my friends but I'm not sure about where it's come from. It is something you are approached for and I can assure you I have not been approached."

Formidable

She said if she was asked about the position the county's press would be the first to know, but she refused to be drawn on whether it was a role she would like to hold.

Ms Widdecombe, who is fluent in Latin the official language of the Vatican, met Pope John Paul II after her conversion to Catholicism in 1993.

The current ambassador is Francis Campbell and the post is expected to become vacant around the same time as the election, which has fuelled speculation that it could go to Ms Widdecombe.

Lord Alton, a leading Roman Catholic peer, said there was already talk of who would be the next ambassador and "Ann Widdecombe's name is at the front".

David Amess, chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on the Holy See, told the Telegraph: "Ann Widdecombe should not be lost to private life. She is a formidable lady with the intellect to match."

Gills save cash on agents' fees

GILLINGHAM were one of just 19 Football League clubs that did not pay any agents' fees last season.

According to a report published on Thursday, League Two sides spent a total of £189,167 on agents for players' transfers compared to £1.1 million in League One and £7.5m in the Championship. However, the total figure has fallen by more than £2m compared to the 2007-08 season.

Football League chairman Lord Mawhinney said: "Given the current financial outlook, it is encouraging that clubs are being more circumspect in terms of their payments to agents.

"I would like to think the Football League has helped bring this about."

Lewis returns for championship

FORMULA One champion Lewis Hamilton is speeding back to the county to make a guest appearance at a German touring car championship.

Hamilton will be at Brands Hatch next month to support Mercedes, which supplies the engines for his F1 car.

The former grand prix circuit is hosting the UK round of the popular DTM championship, a grudge match between auto giants Mercedes and Audi.

Hamilton was at Brands Hatch last year for the race, and is enthusiastic to get back to the county that launched his racing career.

He started at a young age at the Buckmore Park kart track near Rochester, when he was spotted by McLaren boss Ron Dennis who went on to groom him for racing success.

HERO RETURNS: Lewis Hamilton will be at Brands Hatch for the DTM championship

Hamilton took last year's world championship by a single point in a dramatic overtake in the last turn of the last race.

After a poor start to this season, improvements to his McLaren car means he is winning races again and appearing on the podium.

Hamilton will take part in a live interview session in the paddock and a special circuit parade in a Mercedes-Benz road car.

He said: "It's great to be going back to the DTM at Brands Hatch again this year; it is always fantastic to have the opportunity to spend time with British motorsport fans and thank them for their support."

Two fans can get the chance to meet Hamilton, too. The competition is open to anyone who buys tickets in advance for the event on September 5-6.

They cost from £25 for adults, with free entry for children aged 12 and under.

For more information call 0870 950 9000 or visit www.dtmbrandshatch.com.

'Ketchup gangs' fly in from Continent

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

VULNERABLE shoppers are being targeted by criminals who have come into the county from Europe on cheap flights.

John Grant, the crime prevention manager at Kent Police, said elderly people in town centres and shopping malls were being targeted by the gangs using 'distraction tactics' seen in countries like Spain and Greece. Scams include squirting ketchup at people to distract them while their purses are stolen.

"A colleague in the Met said they had reason to believe cheap flights were being used and criminals were coming over here," Mr Grant, a former police constable said. "They are spending a week, or however long, and then the money they get here is sent back."

Police have arrested a woman of Chilean descent who lives in Spain with her husband. Mr Grant said the tactic used in the case was a "typical Spanish distraction".

"They are working in a network. Last night I got a telephone call from a Chilean news editor who was very interested in it," he said. "She was saying there are Chileans in Spain and the same thing is happening, which goes to show there is a network and more to it than meets the eye."

Mr Grant said there had been incidents in shopping centres such as Bluewater and town centres like Maidstone.

"There are a number of ways, such as bumping into people in a crowded place and squirting not just ketchup but other things that can be put in a squeezy bottle," he said.

"The link is that they fly from Europe."

He urged people to report any incidents they experienced or saw.

"We are trying to highlight that it is not just localised theft – these are organised crime gangs," he said.

He said foreign criminals were also travelling to shopping areas using minibuses to spend the day shoplifting and mugging.

One victim had been targeted at a cashpoint in Maidstone. The 67-year-old had just withdrawn £100 when her jacket was covered in tomato sauce.

A person offered to help her, and before she realised what had happened, the pensioner's bag had been taken.

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Charity staff fear serial vandal may be angry rapist

By **SARAH CARRÉ**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CHARITY working with victims of rape and sexual abuse fears it has become the target of a serial attacker.

Family Matters in Gravesend, has been vandalised twice in a month – and in the latest incident an iconic statue symbolising its work was beheaded.

The sculpture was attacked last Friday night, August 14, and on July 15 two stones were thrown through the Wrotham Road building's front window.

Staff fear the attacker could be a rapist or an abuser angry at the charity for supporting his victim.

Targeted

Family Matters helps around 400 people a year across Kent who have been victims of sexual abuse and rape as adults or children.

The charity also works in Surrey and south east London providing help and support through rape therapy and counselling.

Family Matters operations director Malcolm Gilbert said: "Although we can't be sure, the attack does feel personal, certainly as the charity's statue represents the victims that we provide a counselling service for.

"After the first incident we thought it was a simple act of vandalism, but now we are wondering if we are being targeted.

"We are also the only building in the road to have been vandalised."

The statue was created by an artist from the Crayford Centre, a community programme that provides support for people recovering from mental health problems.

Mr Gilbert said: "When you think we are the largest provider of this support in the UK, it has really made us wonder if we are being targeted and who might be targeting us. We certainly would have upset a few abusers over the years.

"Sexual abusers and rapists are not nice people and it is all about degradation, humiliation, fear and control.

"I would think we must have upset quite a few with the way we help clients fortify themselves against abusers and escape further abuse."

TARGET: Family Matters HQ has been vandalised twice a month, with the charity statue's head removed in the latest attack

He said the charity had helped bring many cases to court over the years.

"Violence against women is now finding a much higher profile and people are joining together in a far more co-ordinated way now and it could be a reaction to that," he said.

The head of the statue, which was named A Crying Shame by the charity's clients, has now been re-attached.

Mr Gilbert said the feeling among clients about the attacks if they were carried out by an abuser was one of defiance.

The charity has now been forced to consider increasing its security.

Mr Gilbert added: "Should we decide to invest in CCTV it will obviously take away from our resources, which should be for providing a service for the victims of sexual abuse and rape.

"If it's just vandalism it is a particularly callous attack indicating the indifference of people to the plight of our many service users."

Anyone who is a victim of sexual abuse or rape and would like support, can contact the Family Matters helpline 01474 537392.

Sweeney in hunt for panto talent

ACTRESS Claire Sweeney is on the lookout for talented Kent youngsters to join her in pantomime.

The former Brookside star is appearing in Sleeping Beauty at Bromley's Churchill Theatre later this year and is appealing for children aged six to 16 to take part in auditions. For your chance to appear in panto, visit www.robinsonssearchforastar.com and fill out a registration form.

Auditions will be held at the theatre between 3pm and 6pm on Saturday, September 19.

Did you see car crash?

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a car crash left a man fighting for his life.

The incident took place at Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, at the junction with Newbridge Park just before 6.30pm on Monday when a blue Ford Fiesta left the carriageway.

The male driver and his female passenger were taken to hospital in Maidstone.

The man suffered life-threatening injuries but his condition was later described as "serious but stable".

The passenger suffered less serious injuries.

Police want to hear from anyone saw the Fiesta and a dark Mercedes in the area to call 01732 379217 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Plea for blood donors before swine flu hits hard in winter

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN has been launched urging people to give blood before the predicted surge in swine flu this winter.

The NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) said people cannot give blood when they have flu, so the organisation needs to build up its stocks now ahead of the dip in donations expected due to the H1N1 virus and seasonal flu.

Hospitals across Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Berkshire need 5,290 units of blood a week to treat patients.

Sarah Barker, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, is helping the appeal and urging people to donate blood after she experienced the benefit of the service first hand.

"About two weeks after giving birth to my first child in 2006, I suffered a post-natal haemorrhage and was rushed straight to Pembury Hospital where I immediately received four units of type O negative blood," she said.

"Thankfully, I made a quick and full recovery and in 2008 I gave birth to a healthy son."

Mrs Barker, who has been donating blood since she was 19, added:

FANTASTIC: Sarah Barker, who needed a transfusion after her first child, is urging people to donate

"My story is just one example of why people should give blood, because you never know when you or someone you love may need a transfusion.

"My blood meant everything to me and my family and I wouldn't be here without it. It's so simple and easy to give blood and it is a fantastic and noble thing to do.

"By sparing one hour of your time you can potentially save more than one life."

The NHSBT's latest campaign is using the message: Don't wait to donate – and bring your mate.

A host of celebrities including newsreader Natasha Kaplinsky, Britain's Got Talent presenter Amanda Holden and pop music mogul Pete Waterman have signed up to promote the campaign and urge regular donors to recruit a friend to give blood for the first time.

First-time donors are being encouraged to take a 'blood buddy' with them for support and to boost donor numbers.

Lynda Hamlyn, chief executive of NHSBT said: "We hope 'buddying up' will encourage more people to give blood and spread the word.

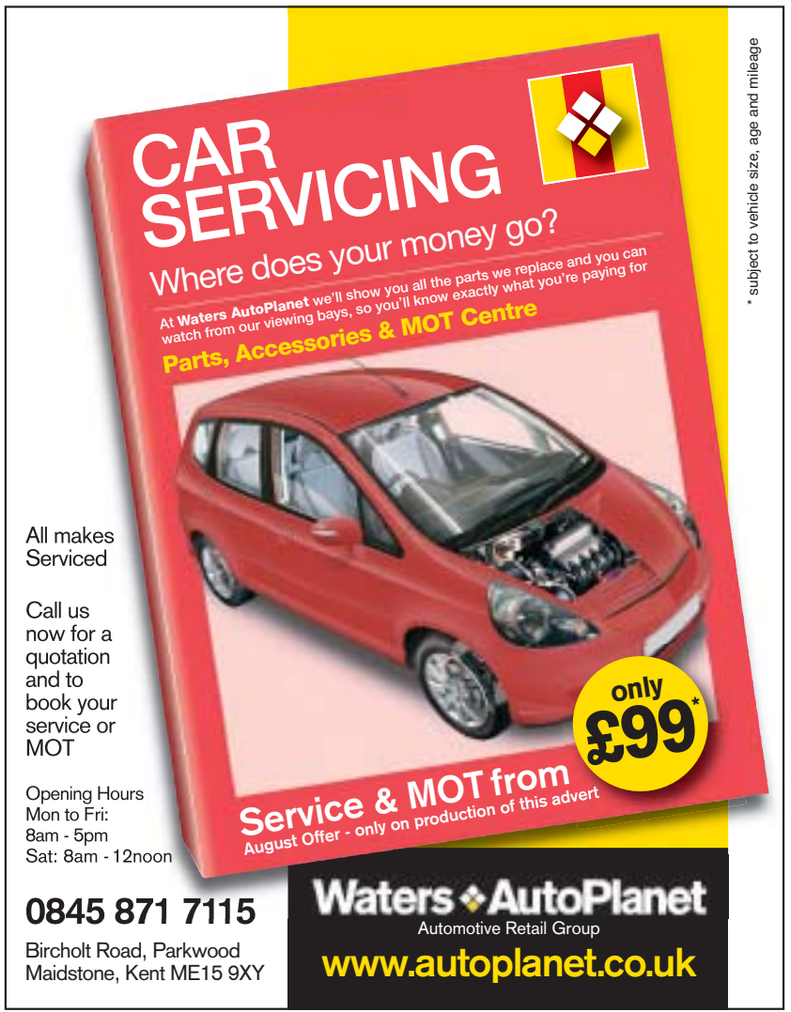
"There's always a dip in donations over the summer and people can't give blood when they've got flu, so we need people to donate now.

"If you've always intended to give blood but never got around to it please come along this summer."

Natasha Kaplinsky, a former Meridian presenter, added: "This is a cause that is extremely dear to my heart. Only a few weeks ago my friend's baby received a blood transfusion which saved his life. Thanks to the generosity of donors he has made a fantastic recovery.

"I urge all you heroes out there to take your friend to give blood this summer. It takes no time at all and you just never know when someone you love might need it."

To donate blood call 0300 123 23 23 or go to www.blood.co.uk.



Night flights could take off

THE owner of Kent International Airport at Manston has applied to start a night-time flying policy.

Thanet council received an application on Monday from the airport's chief executive Matt Clarke, on behalf of New Zealand operator Infratil.

If the application is approved, planes will be allowed to land and take off between 6am and 11.30pm, one hour earlier and half-an-hour later than the current agreement permits.

A 12-week consultation with the public, which could start this month, will be carried out by the council before a decision is made.

Mr Clarke, the airport's chief executive, said: "The objective is to be able to put us on a level playing field with an equal footing with other airports in the region.

"The policy is essentially an application to allow for flexibility to allow for daytime flying.

"There is no proposal to host regular night-time flights that will be programmed in during the hours of night-time.

"This is about allowing aircraft to land when they are delayed."

Mr Clarke added that the airport was in discussions with more operators to provide added commercial passenger flights and commuter services to its rota, but he would not reveal details.

The move is likely to infuriate those who oppose night-flying.

Roger Latchford, deputy leader of Thanet council, said: "We are keen to hear what the public in Thanet thinks of this proposal and we will ensure a thorough consultation.

"The airport is an important part of Thanet's economy and we are keen to make sure that any future developments are considered carefully."

Demand for end to 'obscene' high pay

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SCHOLARS, politicians and members of the public are among those calling for an end to the culture of excessive wages and bonuses.

Hundreds of people have already signed an online petition supporting the creation of a High Pay Commission, which was launched by the think-tank Compass this week.

Erith and Thamesmead Labour MP John Austin, who was one of the original signatories, said there were important lessons to be learned from the recession.

He added: "It was greed and excess that helped bring down our economy and this has impacted on the lives of us all.

Greed

"If we want to create a more equal, sustainable and secure future for all then we need fairer pay. The greed of those at the top has impacted directly on those at the bottom.

"This must not be allowed to happen again. That is why I am lobbying for a High Pay Commission to launch a wide-ranging review of excessive pay and consider proposals such as maximum wage ratios and bonus taxation."

Mr Austin was referred to by Compass as one of 100 "leading progressive figures" who support the campaign, which is also being backed by South East MEP and Green Party leader Dr Caroline Lucas, and Professor Davina Cooper of Kent Law School.

The list also includes figures such as Trades Union Congress general secretary Brendan Barber and Lib Dem Treasury spokesman Vince Cable.

Yet despite widespread support for the formation of such a regulatory body, neither Chancellor Alistair Darling nor his Tory counterpart George Osborne believe it is the way forward.

Mr Darling told the BBC: "I do think that government has a role in trying to stop undesirable practices, such as excessive risk-taking through bonus payments in the banking system, where we all stand to lose if that goes wrong.

"But generally, I think pay agreements ought to be reached by employers and employees meeting together."

Mr Austin, who has announced he will step down at the next general election, has been an MP since 1992 and is a member of the left-wing Socialist Campaign Group.

He told Kent on Sunday he was disappointed by the Chancellor's reaction, adding: "This is not a normal issue of wage negotiations. We are talking about obscene distortions in incomes.

"We are in new territory and a new situation that has contributed to the financial crisis we are in.

"I certainly think the Government has the right to intervene, especially in the banks that are now owned by the state."

According to Compass, an employee working a 40-hour week on the minimum wage would have to work for about 226 years to earn the same amount as a FTSE 100 boss does in just 12 months.

Mr Austin said: "The campaign will go on. We have put some ideas forward – some of which may be practical and some of which may not – but a High Pay Commission could decide on the best way forward.

"We will continue to press the point."

Murder charge

A MAN has appeared in court charged with murder following the discovery of a 23-year-old woman's body in Gravesend.

Police found the body after attending an address in Hampton Crescent, Gravesend, at around 9pm on Friday, August 14.

Aminur Rahman Bachchu, 34, of Hampton Crescent, Gravesend was arrested shortly afterwards.

He was later charged with one count of murder and appeared at Dartford Magistrates Court on Monday where he was remanded in custody to appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Tuesday, September 1.

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Tories drop plan to fund private schooling fees

A TORY council has admitted it considered using taxpayers' money to pay the tuition fees of pupils at private schools whose parents have lost their jobs.

Bromley Council sparked outrage when it was confirmed the idea was under active consideration, with the Liberal Democrats accusing the Conservative Party of "showing its true colours" by protecting the privileged.

However, leader Cllr Stephen Carr later beat a hasty retreat as the plan threatened to cause further embarrassment for his political colleagues in Westminster.

He said in a statement: "I would like to make it perfectly clear that Bromley Council has no plans to introduce such a scheme but quite rightly, as a result of a question put at a full council meeting at the end of June, officers felt duty-bound to consider this, as is good practice.

'Exceptional'

"As I have already stated, there is no suggestion that this will be pursued."

Bromley Council receives £4,706 in state education funding for every pupil in the borough, but keeps the money that would have been allocated to those who attend private schools and places it in a central pot.

Cash can then be taken from the pot, which currently stands at about £30 million, and spent on areas such as free school meals, providing places for children in private special needs schools or nurseries, or for "exceptional circumstances".

Hours before Cllr Carr issued his statement, his colleague Cllr Ernest Noad had confirmed to reporters the authority was looking into the possibility of using some of the cash to keep pupils in private education.

WIN Hop Festival tickets

MORE than 20,000 people are expected to join in the celebration of Kent's hop-picking history at the annual Faversham Hop Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 5-6.

And with local fare, street entertainment and the chance to ride a steam train, there is something for the whole family to enjoy.

The festival recalls the days when Londoners would travel down from the capital by train to take their annual working holiday in the fields of Kent, bringing in the harvest and ending their stay with huge parties.

To commemorate their journey, the Spitfire Steam Train will make a return trip from Faversham to Sheerness-on-Sea on Sunday at 2.30pm, taking in excellent views across the Kingsferry Bridge and the Sheppey Marshes.

The train, made up of historic carriages from the 1950s and 1960s, will carry a real ale bar, serving a range of Shepherd Neame ales – including Golden Harvest, brewed specially for the weekend – and a buffet car serving soft drinks and snacks.

Shepherd Neame is giving away two family train tickets, and five Spitfire goodie bags to the runners-up.

To win these great prizes simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Spitfire Hop Festival Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is September 1, 2009.

Question: When is the Faversham Hop Festival?

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Tories back off from health service row

MPs offering their support for NHS

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

LEADING Conservative politicians dragged into a row about the future of the NHS have moved to distance themselves from the debate.

Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark and his Canterbury and Whitstable counterpart Julian Brazier have been accused of supporting damning comments made about the healthcare system by fellow Conservatives.

However, both have brushed off the charges which come in the wake of South East MEP Daniel Hannan's anti-NHS outburst on American television.

An article in a national newspaper revealed that shadow energy secretary Mr Clark is listed alongside Mr Hannan as the co-author of a book – Direct Democracy – which says the service "fails to meet public expectations" and is "no longer relevant in the 21st century".

Mr Clark described the accusations to Kent on Sunday as a "load of nonsense", pointing out that the introduction to the book clearly states it "contains a range of proposals submitted by a variety of authors".

He added: "Dan Hannan is a good MEP but I don't agree with what he said about the NHS.

"Everyone knows how important our local NHS is. The campaign to get the new Pembury Hospital approved has been one of my biggest priorities in the last four years and I am a massive supporter of our local health service.

Different

"The book mentioned by The Observer was a compilation of essays by 23 different authors and I had no involvement with the chapter on the NHS."

Mr Brazier's involvement in the row comes through his membership of the traditionalist all-Tory Cornerstone Group. A report that was largely ignored when first published on the group's website in May, 2007, has now been dragged into the public eye due to its author – Wellingborough MP Peter Bone – describing the NHS as "Stalinist" and calling for it to be replaced.

In a letter sent this week to David Cameron, Health Secretary Andy Burnham asked the Tory leader if he would be ordering his shadow ministers – including shadow transport minister Mr Brazier – to resign from the Cornerstone Group as a result.

The letter reads: "You claim the Conservatives are the party of the NHS. I find this surprising.

"It goes without saying that every single MP, MEP and member of the Labour Party endorses the NHS. The same cannot be said of your party."

Mr Brazier declined to comment on the row when contacted by KoS. However, his spokesman said: "The Cornerstone Group's website makes it clear that the views expressed are those of the individuals rather than the group as a whole."

Meanwhile, Gravesham MP Adam Holloway has denied being a member of Cornerstone, despite its website listing him as such.

He said: "I once spoke at one of their dinners but I've never been a member. I've just never got round to telling them to take my name off their website. They call it the Tombstone Group because it's going nowhere."

Picture: JOHN MARSH

Snapper's pride at beautiful gig

ROCK legends U2 presented John Marsh with the gig of a lifetime when he was chosen to be their official Wembley photographer.

The 48-year-old snapper, from Bekesbourne, near Canterbury, took pictures of Bono, The Edge and the rest of the band during their concert last Saturday.

John said: "The U2 gig came from Wembley. They were my client, so my brief was to get shots of the stadium as well as the band.

"You only ever get three songs with major artists. As a photographer you'd like more, but three was fine for what I needed. I actually squeezed an extra half-a-song in when I went up the TV gantry to shoot a wide picture with the Wembley arch in it.

"It was great but because I was so focused on getting the best shots I can honestly say I have no idea what they were playing."

John has been a professional photographer for more than 20 years and is the director of the Bekesbourne-based Studio Marsh.

Having spent 11 years covering Formula 1 races around the world and five on the staff of a major sports agency, he now devotes most of his time to weddings.

Visit www.studiomarsh.com for more information.

Picture: PRESSUPBIZ/JULES SERKIN

NO VERTIGO: John Marsh has photographed U2 at Wembley

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Benefit swindler gets sentenced

A BENEFITS cheat has been sentenced to 100 hours' community service and ordered to pay back more than £6,000.

Paul Cox, 47, of Milton Road, Swanscombe, fraudulently claimed £5,242 in housing benefit and £815.86 in council tax benefit by not informing Dartford Council he'd landed a job.

He pleaded guilty when he appeared before magistrates this week.

Cox has also been ordered to pay court costs of £202.

Camping in style on White Cliffs

A GLAMOROUS form of camping has hit the White Cliffs of Dover, spelling an end to communal toilets, sleeping-bags and muddy wellies.

Hotelier Gavin Oakley has introduced 'glamping' to Wallett's Court Country House Hotel in St Margarets, where guests can enjoy the great outdoors without the hassles of regular camping.

A giant tipi boasting a queen-sized bed, comfy seats and soft furnishings has been put up in the grounds of the hotel.

The tipi also comes with heating, electric lighting and a wooden floor, plus an outdoor fire-pit for the authentic camping feel.

Mr Oakley said: "It's the best of both worlds. The tipi's a lot bigger than you might imagine – 18ft in diameter – and is really very cosy."

ATM fraud charge

A MAN has been charged in connection with card-skimming devices placed on ATMs at branches of Barclays Bank in Sevenoaks and Tonbridge.

Mihai Mihaila, 37, of Grafton Road, Croydon was charged with fraud.

Expert quenches thirst for knowledge in Africa

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A WATER supply expert has made it his mission to help save lives in some of Africa's poorest nations.

Sandy Elsworth, 50, from Goudhurst, near Maidstone, is part of a humanitarian project aimed at educating workers in developing counties on how best to manage scarce water supplies.

The father-of-two has just returned from a three-week visit to Ethiopia, which was funded by the WaterAid international charity.

He had previously shared his knowledge and experience with industry managers in Tanzania.

Mr Elsworth said: "Ethiopia is a land of enormous contrasts. The highlands get more than double the rainfall of Kent, but it all falls in two or three months of the year.

"When you get down to the valleys and deserts it's about half of what we receive, so there is clearly an enormous variety and different patterns of rainfall. How you manage or mismanage it is very important.

"When you go to the rural areas there's an obvious sense of a shortage of water. We're trying to provide enough for 15 litres per person per day and to make sure no-one has to walk more than 1.5km to reach a water point.

"That's our target, but we're not there yet."

Mr Elsworth spent 19 years with South East Water before leaving in 2000 to become an independent water consultant.

The Zimbabwe-born father-of-two still works closely with the Snodland-based company, which is backing the WaterAid project and contributed to the cost of his Ethiopian visit.

ALL DRIED OUT: The village of Mkuze where Sandy Elsworth visited during the drought to assist in restoring the water supply – which had dried up completely; and right, Mr Elsworth at a small shallow borehole he was investigating near Addis Ababa during his three-week visit to Ethiopia

During the trip Mr Elsworth delivered four water-dip meters to monitor water levels and also gave a number of workshops concentrating on areas such as leakage prevention.

He said: "It's easy to give money to countries like Ethiopia, but we need to make sure it is used in the most appropriate way. The key thing there is to provide the training for long-term water resource management, which is needed to plan for changes experienced through climate change, growth and demand.

"What we have in the UK is one of the most advanced water industries in the world. It is incredibly efficient due to the regulations and the people who work in the industry are skilled and experienced. Countries like Ethiopia are asking us to transfer those skills to them.

"They want to know how they can do things and how they can do things better.

"For instance, we let them know that they should be storing water more efficiently and reducing leaks before they start drilling more bore holes that can often make the shortage situation worse."

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Large fines for flytippers

TWO flytipping builders who dumped 20 bags of rubbish have been fined at Dartford Magistrates Court.

William Ball and Leonard Howard, of Halstow Lane, Upchurch, Sittingbourne, admitted dumping 20 clear plastic sacks and carpet in Dering Way, Gravesend on May 15.

They each received a £300 fine, and were ordered to pay £700 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

During interview they admitted that they knew flytipping to be an illegal activity and an environmental crime.

The Clean Kent enforcement team at Kent County Council was behind the prosecution of the two flytippers.

Cllr Nick Chard, KCC's cabinet member for environment, highways and waste said: "We are committed to bringing flytippers to justice."

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Opening rapped up

AWARD-winning rapper Chipmunk will perform at a music festival to mark the opening of MidKent College's Medway campus.

The 18-year-old, who last year scooped the Mobo prize for Best Newcomer, will headline the free Access All Areas event on Friday.

He will be joined by a number of other DJs and bands including Kid British.

The festival will be at the campus in Medway Road, Gillingham, between 2-7pm. Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for details.

Playboys of the skies

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

"RECKLESS" and super rich, the exploits of the pioneering pilots who descended on the Isle of Sheppey in the early 1900s are explored in a new book.

Local historian David Hughes, who lives in Minster, said he wrote Flying Past: A History of Sheppey Aviation, to mark the 100th anniversary celebrations of the first flights in Britain.

On May 2, 1909, John Moore-Brabazon made the first officially recognised flight in Britain, from Shellbeach near Leybourne in a French aircraft named Bird of Passage.

He took off in front of Shorts' Works and flew in the direction of Mussel Manor until a heavy gust of wind caught the machine and it crashed. He had covered around 500 yards at a height of 35ft.

"The first pilots would fly literally on top rather than in their aeroplanes," Mr Hughes said. "They sat in a deckchair-type seat on top of the wings. They were either incredibly brave or incredibly reckless."

The book contains more than 200 photographs charting the history of aviation, from the early days of flight to the closure of the Eastchurch airfield after World War Two.

After the American Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, made the first flight in 1903, they travelled to Europe hoping to make money from their flying machine.

"They wanted to sell the idea to foreign governments for military applications, but they could not see the potential," Mr Hughes said.

"It seemed too fantastical; people had been fighting wars the same way for hundreds of years. The planes were like kites with a lawnmower engine, there did not seem to be the potential that was later realised."

He said rather than governments and military organisations, it was rich, upper-class Englishmen who pioneered flying and funded the development of aircraft.

FLYING HIGH: Frank McClean in a Short S.36 with his sister Anna as a passenger in 1912

The aero enthusiasts at the time flew hot air and gas balloons.

Mr Hughes said: "The Short brothers used to manufacture balloons up at Battersea.

"There was not exactly anywhere to take off an aeroplane there, so they looked around for somewhere suitable for flying and picked Sheppey.

Move to the isle

"The Short brothers manufactured the first aeroplanes at an aerodrome at Muswell Manor at Shellbeach."

Among the other early pilots was Charles Rolls, who had just gone into partnership with Frederick Henry Royce to manufacture the famous cars.

"He was very into flying, he made his first flight on the Isle of Sheppey and a year later he died in 1910 during a speed landing contest in Bournemouth," Mr Hughes said.

"It is ironic that the Rolls of Rolls Royce only had an input into the company for a few months and then he got killed."

At the time planes cost £1,000, and Mr Hughes said: "They were what would later be known as playboys, filthy rich.

"It was a hobby for the rich and wealthy. They were really just thrillseekers and the sort of people who today would be bungee jumping or doing free-fall parachuting."

He said Frank McClean was another important figure who, through private funding persuaded the Admiralty, a government department which was then responsible for the Royal Navy, to train pilots.

The original flying activity was centred on Shellbeach but it soon moved to Eastchurch due to better conditions.

The Isle of Sheppey was a centre for aviation through both World Wars. But after World War Two the RAF left and the former aerodrome was turned into the country's first open prison in 1950.

• ***Flying Past is published by The History Press and costs £12.99.***

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Mum's kitchen gadget makes it onto shortlist

A MOTHER from Kent has reached the finals of a £50,000 competition judged by celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal to design an innovative kitchen utensil.

Vickie Richards, 41, said she came up with the idea for a 'chip and sausage griddle' after she became frustrated while making dinner for her children and thought there must be an easier way to cook the classic combination.

She said: "I can't believe my idea has been chosen from the hundreds of entries and am really looking forward to having the chance to bring my invention to life for the judges.

"I was nervous about pitching to Heston Blumenthal though... as a world-leading chef at the forefront of innovation, I knew he would be a formidable judge to impress."

Mrs Richards, pictured, who lives in Orpington, is one of just 10 finalists who are waiting to see whether they have won a prize estimated to be worth at least £50,000 in the Finish Diamond Standard Innovation Challenge.

It includes a £10,000 cash prize and the opportunity to work with kitchenware store Lakeland to develop the product, bring it to market and receive royalties from sales.

Blumenthal, the head judge and owner of three Michelin starred and award winning restaurant The Fat Duck, is renowned for his experimentation in the kitchen.

The winner will be announced in October.

Artist's design for walking on water

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

FLOATING walkways stretching from either side of the Channel could become a reality if a Portuguese artist achieves her Olympic dream, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Landscape architect Sofia Castelo is one of five hopefuls shortlisted to receive a grant of £500,000 for the South East region as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, which will run alongside the athletics events.

Should her idea The Less Travelled Path be selected, Ms Castelo plans to use traditional naval materials to construct the temporary platforms that will stretch up to 10km from Dover and up to 4km from Calais.

The 37-year-old from Lisbon said: "The inspiration for my idea comes from several elements, the first of which is the beautiful White Cliffs.

"For a long time they were what the rest of the world associated with England and they present such a powerful image.

"There is also the symbolic crossing of the Channel, which has united England to the rest of Europe and also divided it.

"The Olympics are a beautiful celebration of mankind that bring people together from around the world, and I'm thrilled and very excited to have the chance to be part of it. It's a wonderful opportunity for me."

Artists throughout the country were challenged to submit their ideas for 12 commissions – each in different regions of the UK – as part of the Artists Taking the Lead scheme, which attracted more than 2,000 applications in just over two months.

Independent panels of artists and producers in each region then judged the entries and arrived at their shortlist.

Sea the issue

Tunbridge Wells artist John Cockram also made the final five in the South East and will now receive £5,000 to turn his initial proposal – entitled Room – into comprehensive plans.

His idea is for a three-walled glass structure that would tour beaches and provide space for performances and exhibitions while the waves wash in.

Mr Cockram said: "I've been involved with a number of art projects looking at different environmental issues, and the problem of rising sea levels had been in my mind for a while because I didn't know how to address it.

"We are a nation of island-dwellers and the sea has protected us in the past, but now it threatens us in a way. Rising sea levels are a big issue for us in this country.

"I hope that if my idea is commissioned that people will enter the structure, see the sea levels rising around them and start to think more about global warming and all the other issues around it."

The remaining three shortlisted projects in the South East were all submitted by Brighton-based artists.

The Boat Project wants people to donate wooden items of personal significance to be made into a seafaring vessel, while The Online Speaking Clock would give 288 filmmakers the chance to record five 60-second clips each to cover every minute of the day.

Finally, if the idea entitled Landmark is selected, a 30-metre chalk enclosure will be hand-built on the South Downs.

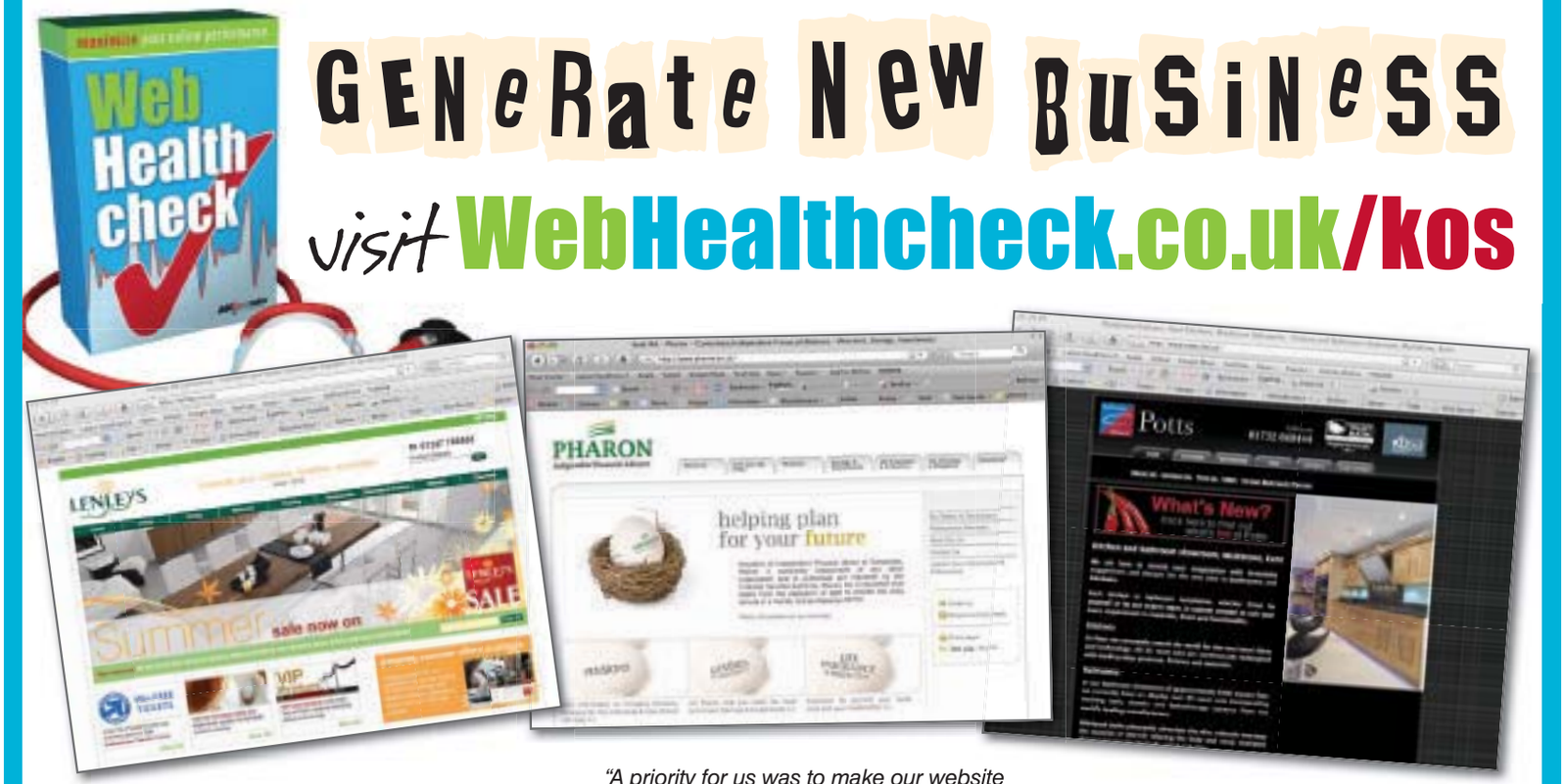
The winning projects are due to be announced in October.

• Kent County Council has short-listed three designs for its Cultural Baton arts project.

Work created by Cathy Streeter, Nicole Mollett and the group of Nina Atkinson, Dawn Cole and Emma Moody-Smith will battle it out to see whose work will represent the county at festivals and shows in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympics.

The baton will be officially launched in spring next year.

Artists impression courtesy of Sofia Castelo



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Thousands apply to store as new jobs announced

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A NEW Morrisons supermarket has been deluged with job hunters – so far nearly 5,000 have bombarded the store for just 250 positions.

It took staff three days to wade through the mountain of applications to whittle them down to a manageable level.

The recession has taken hold in the Welling area, where job losses have risen in line with much of the rest of the UK.

According to the Job Centre plus website, there are 4,881 people looking for work in Bexley, and it is understood many of the applicants were from outside the immediate locality of the new superstore.

Morrisons held a three-day jobs fair and was amazed at how many people turned up for work at the former Co-op store.

Around the UK, more than 30,000 people have already registered an interest in working for the retailer, which is set to open another 40 supermarkets around the country by the end of the year.

Store director Mark Harrison said: "The response to our recruitment drive has been astounding.

"We've got a variety of jobs available, and many of the candidates are attracted to our offer of skills-based roles and long-term career prospects.

"The fact that a variety of shifts are available too also appeals."

A company spokesman said: "The number applying to Welling was a company record.

"There was a great range of jobs on offer including fishmonger, bakery, and warehouse managers.

"Because there is such a wide range is why it attracted so many people – there were so many job opportunities for so many different people."

Conversion work is going on at the former Co-op store, and the opening date has not yet been announced.

The 250 new staff will be in addition to the Co-op staff who transferred to work for Morrisons.

The Department for Work and Pensions said: "It is good news that a major employer has opened up in Welling."

Save a life with a generous gift

NHS West Kent is urging more people to become organ donors in support of a vital national campaign.

NHS Blood and Transplant has launched an online drive to make people aware that organ donors are needed. In West Kent, 79 people are waiting for an organ transplant.

Nicky Coffey is associate director of South East Coast Specialised Commissioning Group, which commissions for NHS West Kent.

She said: "We are urging people in West Kent to get behind this fantastic campaign. People have the potential to save lives by joining the NHS Organ Call the Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.walloflife.org.uk.

Gathering to be a very tall order

THE country's tallest people will be arriving in Maidstone over the bank holiday weekend for a special event.

Tall Persons Club GB & Ireland is holding its 18th annual get together at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel Maidstone.

There will be about 40-50 people attending ranging in height from 6ft right up to 7ft 4in.

Events over the weekend will include a trip to the cathedral city of Canterbury.

The organisation was set up 18 years ago by "to provide information for and promote the interests of tall people".

Car crash leads to three arrests

A 22-YEAR-old man has been charged with having no insurance and failing to stop following an accident after a car was driven into a tree.

The incident took place in Upper Stone Street on Thursday, August 13.

Norbert Sagan of Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, has been bailed to appear at Maidstone Magistrates court on Tuesday, September 1.

Two other men were arrested during the incident on suspicion of drugs offences. One has been released without charge and a 24-year-old man has been bailed until Friday, October 9, pending further investigation.

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M.P – December 2008

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Animals unafraid as woods burned

A FOREST fire that burned all night took hold of woodland close to the Wildwood Trust animal park on Tuesday.

Six fire engines were called to tackle the three hectare blaze at 2.30pm on Tuesday.

Undergrowth, grass and trees had caught alight only 100 metres from Wildwood's perimeter. The fire was to the west of the animal park, in woodland off New Road, Herne Common, used as a nature reserve by Kent Wildlife Trust.

A spokesman for the trust said: "The amount of smoke it was generating was quite small, so none of our animals got spooked."

Conversion to Islam

PLANS for a Muslim Community Centre containing a prayer room have been given the green light.

Swale councillors approved the proposals for the new meeting place in Sittingbourne at a recent planning meeting.

The move will see five sets of prayers a day taking place alongside Arabic lessons and religious workshops on the site of the former Prince Alfred pub.

Book in for a beer

MEMBERS of the West Kent and Maidstone/Mid Kent branches of the Campaign for Real Ale have published a glossy, full-colour pocket guide to local pubs.

The Gateway to Kent Pub Guide features about 500 pubs in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Maidstone and the surrounding areas.

The guide is available for £6.49 including P&P from Gateway Guide, 251A Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2EJ. Cheques should be made payable to Gateway Guide. It is also on sale in pubs, bookshops, and tourist information centres.

Box to leave its stamp on mail

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SPECIAL post box in Hythe that is one of only five left of its kind has been immortalised on a new stamp.

The vibrant red example is known as a Victorian Lamp Box – this one is even surrounded by green ivy.

And from Tuesday is has appeared among a new set of Royal Mail stamps which marks the history of this style of old post boxes.

The box pictured is located at Botolph's Bridge, Burnmash Road, Hythe, and will now be seen around the Continent on the 81p stamp, which is used for European airmail up to 40g.

The Royal Mail said Hythe's historic example of an original Victorian lamp was installed in 1896.

It was originally designed to be attached to a lamp post, but sometimes, like this one in Hythe, it was installed in a wall.

They are smaller than their pillar-box cousins seen in towns and cities, and so were ideal for smaller communities or villages.

The first 'proper' ones were installed in 1852 in the Channel Islands and from 1853 on the mainland.

However smaller post boxes were then needed as a cheaper and more practical alternative to pillar boxes for less populated or more remote areas, such as Hythe was at the time.

PICTURED: The post box in Hythe, above, is part of a set of four postage stamps

From 1857 post boxes began appearing in walls, buildings or brick pillars and were later to be found on poles and lamp posts.

They were introduced for the convenience of people posting unpaid letters. That meant the recipients had to pay for their own delivery.

Production of wall boxes ended in 1980, and in 1995 freestanding pedestal boxes were introduced, but around 114,000 post boxes of all kinds still exist across the UK.

The new sheet of stamps features four of the five last iconic wall-mounted boxes.

Melanie Corfield, Royal Mail's head of external relations for London and the South East said: "Post boxes have a wonderful character all their own and I think the miniature sheet [of stamps] brings that out beautifully."

BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC BACKGROUND

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Teacher information evening

Thursday, 3 September 2009

Canterbury Christchurch University, Old Sessions House, North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU

This is the the ideal opportunity to meet representatives from education to find out if teaching is the career for you. If you would like to find out more about these exciting opportunities please phone Katharine Hearn on **01634 404876** or email **katharine.hearn@supplydesk.co.uk**

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THE MAGIC OF BEING CLOSE TO BIG CATS

W H F is a charity based in Kent working hard to ensure the survival of big cat species. We are an active partner in the European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes and raise awareness and funding for cat projects around the world.

RANGER FOR THE DAY

A guided tour of site to meet all the cats, including Lions, Tigers, Snow Leopards, Cheetahs & Amur Leopards, an opportunity to help us clean and tend the cats, assist with the cat feeding and to get some really good photos as mementos of the day.

Wildlife

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Ashford TN27 8PJ
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Website: www.whf.org.uk
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CHRIS BRITCHER
CAMPAIGN EDITOR
chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

Lettuce enjoy naturally good food from the market garden

Seasonal food expert ABBY DYSON takes a look behind the scenes at one of the county's most important salad producers

CRADLEBRIDGE Market Garden in Appledore is home to what could well be Kent's most surprising microclimate, where locally-grown produce is harvested almost all year round without recourse to artificial heating.

Proprietor James Perkins has been growing salad here for nine years and has 16 polythene tunnels, each 120-feet long, in which he grows nine types of baby salad leaves, ranging from the well-known wild rocket and chard to the more exotic red pak choy and bulls blood, as well as a selection of traditional lettuces.

The varieties James grows change depending on what is in fashion with London's top chefs and customers of www.foodforkent.co.uk, both of whom he supplies.

Wild rocket, mizuna and tatsoi are perennial favourites with the chefs, while Russian kale and lettuces such as lollo rosso and red oak might be popular one year but less so the next.

Growing salad requires constant attention from James and his part-time assistant as there is a continuous cycle of leaves being harvested and new batches of seeds sown.

At the height of summer the fastest-growing leaves, such as red and gold streak mustards, will be cut 14 days after sowing, whereas rocket takes around three weeks to mature.

James sows the first seeds at the end of February and his work continues until Christmas. This long growing season is perhaps surprising given that the plastic tunnels are unheated and, for much of the year, the ends are left open so the air can circulate in order to avoid damp-loving diseases.

However, these tunnels are incredibly effective at creating a warm environment in which the salad flourishes and the humid heat they generate can be felt even when standing a few feet away from their entrances.

Until recently all of James' salad leaves were cut using kitchen scissors – back-breaking work, considering each tunnel produces 150-200kg of leaves.

A skilled person could cut 20kg in an hour, but as the cutter tired, subsequent hours of harvesting would result in a lower yield.

Thankfully, James' recently-acquired cutting machine can harvest 60kg in 30 minutes and cuts the salad leaves in such a way that the quality is comparable with hand-harvested produce. After cutting, the leaves are then collected and packed without being washed or treated, so they can be delivered within 24 hours of being picked.

The quick turnaround means the salad leaves which www.foodforkent.co.uk provides last fantastically well, in stark contrast to supermarket salad packets, which can turn to sludge within a few days of purchase.

Jonathan Parker of www.foodforkent.co.uk reports he has consistently had positive feedback from customers about the mixed baby leaves still being fresh over a week after delivery. He suggests customers store them in the fridge in an airtight bag to keep the leaves fresher for longer.

Replacing scissors with a mechanised cutting machine is as high-tech as it gets at Cradlebridge Market Garden – James uses an old fashioned push-along seed hopper to plant his seeds and a bespoke seedling planter for his lettuces.

Despite its simple approach, the farm yields high quality baby salad leaves and lettuces, thanks to the huge amount of TLC James devotes to ensuring his produce meets the highest standards expected by chefs and discerning consumers alike.

The proof is in the eating – his leaves are flavoursome and long-lasting and well-suited to a wide range of recipes.

• Abby Dyson writes about cooking seasonal, healthy food at www.eattherightstuff.com

Roasted sweet potato and pepper salad with cubes of blue cheese

Ingredients

2 large sweet potatoes, peeled
7 tablespoons olive oil
1 clove garlic, crushed
Half a teaspoon chilli flakes (optional)
2 red peppers, deseeded and cut into strips
125g mixed salad leaves
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
Half a teaspoon Dijon mustard
100g blue cheese (goat's cheese would also work well)
1 tablespoon of toasted pine nuts

Method

Preheat the oven to 200c. Cut the sweet potato into bite-size pieces and mix with one tablespoon of olive oil, the garlic and the chilli flakes. Spread these out on a baking tray, leaving a space at one end.

Mix the red pepper strips with a tablespoon of olive oil and place them in the leftover space on the tray. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper then roast until the vegetables are soft – the peppers will take 15-20 minutes and the sweet potatoes will take 40-50 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Make the salad dressing by mixing together the balsamic vinegar, olive oil and mustard. Mustard is a good alternative to crushed garlic in homemade salad dressings if you are already using garlic in another part of the dish.

Assemble the salad by putting a handful of leaves on each person's plate. Top with the roasted vegetables and cubes of cheese then sprinkle with pine nuts and drizzle with salad dressing.

• For more examples of seasonal recipes visit Abby's healthy-eating food blog www.eattherightstuff.com

Meet the experts and learn to grow your own

IN A celebration of the best of local produce, the Plant to Plate Food Festival comes to Kent next month.

Running over two days at Leeds Castle, Maidstone, the event will offer visitors a taste of what the county has to offer, including locally produced food and drink.

There will also be advice and ideas available from the experts, who will also be on hand to show visitors how to beat the credit crunch by growing their own.

The festival will run during the weekend of September 5-6, from 10am to 6pm. Entry for adults is £16.50 and for children it is £9.50, but every ticket is then valid for a year.

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

NHS is not NCP

ALARM bells are sure to ring when a hospital trust reveals it has made a profit of more than £1 million from car parking charges.

Regardless of the fact that East Kent Hospitals has to manage more car parks than any other NHS trust in the county, such a figure is still too high and suggests significant price reductions should be made.

The trust may well boast some of the cheapest fees in the South East – £2.70 for eight hours in fact – but this does not mean they should not be lowered even further, ideally so that just enough is made to cover its expenses.

Hospital car parks should not be viewed as money-making ventures, but that is easier said than done when some trusts are pocketing such huge profits.

East Kent Hospitals claims it is pumping the money raised back into the car parks it runs, with any surplus going back into patient care. But isn't that what we pay our taxes for?

The NHS should not confuse itself with NCP. Its priority is its patients – not how much money they bring to hospital with them.

Viagra on the rise

THE Tudors returned to television on Friday night with its usual mix of fact, fiction and fumbling on the throne.

University of Kent professor Frank Furedi believes the show may be partly to blame for the rising cost to the NHS of Viagra-type pills, as it raises men's expectations of what sex should be like.

When you consider more than £1.5m was spent on the drug last year in Kent alone, he may well have a point.

OPINION: Honesty is the best policy

Nick Hurd calls for more transparency over how public money is spent

TOUGH times require us all to think hard about how we spend money.

This should apply even more so for Government, because it is not their money they are spending. For years we have gone along with the old model.

We work hard and pay tax into a central pot that Government then spends on our behalf.

We get very little information about what is done with our money, or very little opportunity to influence priorities.

I do not think this model is sustainable in the modern age where information technology is empowering us in so many ways. Nor do I think this lack of transparency or accountability is healthy for our democracy.

We should be encouraging people to feel a sense of involvement and an ability to change things.

Two years ago I took through Parliament a Private Member's Bill, now called the Sustainable Communities Act.

This was only achieved due to cross-party support inside Parliament, encouraged by a coalition of 90 national organisations, ranging from the Women's Institute to the Campaign for Real Ale.

What brought us together was a common concern for the future of communities whose sustainability was threatened by the loss of key local services.

We did not want a future of ghost-town high streets and increasingly isolated communities where people do not bother getting involved because "it's not as if we can change anything".

Dartford has seen no less than five post offices close recently. In Gravesham, 3,000 people signed a petition to keep a post office but it was closed anyway. Margate now has the highest number of empty shops in the South East.

People feel that housing numbers are dictated by unelected quangocrats; gardens are being lost to concrete and the green belt threatened, yet locally elected politicians appear to have very limited powers.

Meanwhile, quangos such as the South East England Regional Assembly and the South East England Development Agency operate across a vast area that has little in common except the inability to hold them to account.

What is the alternative? Supporters of the Sustainable Communities Act believe Government needs to accept our argument that when it comes to the future of communities, local people know best.

We need to be given more information about what is being done in our name and greater freedom to challenge it if we feel there are more pressing local priorities.

As a result of the Act, English local authorities have been invited to consult with the communities they serve and submit their ideas for new powers needed to help them promote more sustainable communities.

I am delighted that around a third, including Kent County Council, have acted on this and submitted proposals for change.

The second pillar of the Act was a requirement on Government to publish Local Spending Reports that would give us a breakdown of public expenditure.

I believe that transparency is the friend of much-needed efficiency, and the vast ecosystem of quangos and government agencies that has evolved needs to be dragged out of the shadows and submitted to a harsh spotlight of public accountability.

Furthermore, if a taxpayer-funded agency such as Business Link cannot persuade local communities in Kent that it is doing a good enough job supporting local businesses, then it should lose its budget and someone else be given the chance to do a better job.

This is not about increasing the size of public expenditure, but ensuring that it is spent in the most efficient way that is responsive to local priorities.

It will not surprise the cynics that the Government has backtracked on this commitment. This is a mistake, as the furore over MPs' expenses shows the British people have developed a taste for more transparency in how taxpayers' money is spent.

So over the coming months, we will be pressing the Government to honour its promises and "show us the money".

If you agree, please write to your local MP and ask them to support the campaign, not least by signing Early Day Motion 1064 on Local Spending Reports.

• ***Nick Hurd is the Tory MP for Ruislip and Northwood.***

EU are money wasters

We have to provide considerable sums of money to the EU, much of which is squandered before they give us some of it back as regional aid.

Our government has set aside £300 million to cover fines and potential fines from the European Commission over irregularities in administering European regional aid by our bureaucrats.

Who are the people working for regional quangos that are responsible for incurring fines and wasting taxpayers' money as a result of their incompetence? How are they to be disciplined? Are they to be allowed to hide from public scrutiny? How will they pay for their mistakes?

Our bureaucrats are becoming less and less accountable to the public who pay their salaries and excessive pensions.

This is surely a scandal on par with the MPs' expenses.

Get rid of regional assemblies and do not allow their replacement with regional boards which may be incorporated and thus sold possibly to foreign interests.

Victor Webb, Tunbridge Wells

Green policy priority

Let's plan for a renewable future. The UK is in danger of missing its climate and energy targets. To reach them councils must approve more local green energy projects like wind farm and hydropower.

Last month the Government made important announcements on renewables, one of them was to agree to publish new planning policy for all councils on climate change this autumn.

We need your help to make sure the policy sets strong green energy targets, please ask your MP to encourage councils to take action on promoting and supporting green energy.

Stuart Cox, Co-ordinator East Kent Friends of the Earth, Walmer, Deal

Don't speed, save money

I wish to congratulate Graham Minty for his email (KoS, August 16). I have followed the comments on the subject of speed cameras to such an extent that I look forward to the next episode of the calls to ban speed cameras.

Why the fuss I ask myself? If you don't want to pay, then don't breach the laws. It's as simple as that.

Obey the laws and keep to the speed limits brought in, in the interests of greater road safety, to cut down crashes and deter motorists from flouting the laws. Perhaps the gentlemen whinging should try obeying the laws and keep within the speed limits.

By so doing they could save money with greater fuel economy and also with a reduction in harmful polluting emissions.

Too much of the heavy foot results in greater wear and tear on the car, which will need to have tyres and brake parts changed with greater frequency.

Give it a try gentlemen, you might be surprised with the result.

It is better to arrive two minutes late than two-20 years early in the next world. You're a long time dead.

John Gamet, Keston

Unhealthy NHS parking

Every year the NHS in England makes over £100 million from parking charges.

While these charges do generate some much-needed income for the NHS, they can also cause real hardship for patients and their families.

Patients are often faced with eye-wateringly high parking costs, but poor public transport links means they sometimes have little alternative but to pay up. This is a scandalous and unfair situation: it needs to change.

However, I do not believe we should scrap all car parking charges for every patient and member of staff. At a time when NHS finances are under increasing pressure, we should not be diverting money away from patient care to subsidise car park maintenance.

A balance needs to be struck which allows hospitals to cover their costs while not imposing too heavy a burden on those who have to use NHS car parks.

Hospital parking charges have a disproportionate impact on regular visitors: cancer patients, people on dialysis, diabetics, older people and their families.

This is a cruel system and represents a pernicious tax on the sick.

The most disappointing aspect of this is that there are already sensible and practical guidelines in place to deal with NHS car parks. Hospitals are meant to offer free or reduced-price parking for patients and relatives whose conditions require regular trips to hospital.

Our research shows these schemes are patchy and the eligibility criteria vary widely across the country – many hospitals seem to be ignoring the guidelines safe in the knowledge that the Department of Health will turn a blind eye.

Liberal Democrats believe patients should be given clear entitlements to NHS care. Part of this could include the introduction of free car parking for those who need to visit hospital regularly, combined with reasonable parking fees to cover the cost of providing the facility for other patients and visitors.

Three NHS hospitals make over £2m in charges every year, another three NHS hospitals made over £1m while one hospital raked in almost £3m in total from parking charges in just one year.

The risk is that with public finances in a parlous state, hospitals could turn to car parking as a cash cow to get them out of financial difficulty. That would be unacceptable. The elderly and people on low incomes need to be protected.

Dr Alan Bullion, Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesman for Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells

Help out our heroes

The Seal Branch of the Royal British Legion and 2158 (Sevenoaks) Squadron Air Training Corps are seeking your support. These two organisations will be attending a number of events in the area. These are as follows: September 6, Heavy Horse Show in Shoreham; September 12, Seal Village Fair; September 20, Riverhead Carnival.

We are running two projects that need your help. Firstly, we are asking everyone in the area to turn out all unwanted mobile phones. SIM cards can be removed and chargers are not necessarily needed, neither is it required that they be in working order.

All these phones will be converted into cash to help over 10.5 million serving and ex-service personnel and their dependants.

The other project we are co-ordinating the putting together of a number of 'Shoe Box' packages to send to our troops in Afghanistan. Items that are normally included are toiletries and other homely goodies including sweets.

If you can help, bring phones or goodies to our stands at the above mentioned events.

Mike Stubbings, Hon Secretary Seal Branch, Royal British Legion

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Your LINk for improving health and social care

the KENT LINk
a Local Involvement Network

Kent LINk Event - Gravesend

You can help!

The Kent LINk is an innovative local watchdog for health and social care in Kent.

The Governors' Group looks after the operation of the LINk in terms of its resources and ensuring it operates in a legal and proper way and in accordance with its governance arrangements. It also oversees the operation of the LINk's Priorities Panel and LINk projects. The term of office for the current Kent LINk Governors comes to an end on 30 September 2009.

Do you have skills in the following areas?

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- Finance
- Strategic thinker

This is your exciting opportunity to influence the way your health and social care services are delivered in Kent.

To register your interest in becoming a LINk Governor or to find out more:
Telephone 01303 297050, e-mail info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or SMS Text 07976 596913.

Closing date for expressions of interest: 1 September 2009

A selection event will be held during September 2009.

Governors are entitled to reimbursement of their travel and certain other costs.

www.thekentlink.co.uk

Central Office: Kent LINk, Unit 24 Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4RH
Tel: 01303 297050 SMS text: 07976 596913 E-mail: info@kmn-ltd.co.uk
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm (Answerphone available out of office hours)

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements In partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ADAMS
Lee and Shelly are pleased to announce the birth of their son Preston Lee Daniel Adams, born on 10th August 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford. A brother for Amy, Alfie and Ellie.

BASEDEN
An early arrival for Ricky and Louise of Faversham, on 29th July 2009, Poppy Lauren Baseden a beautiful daughter.

BUDDLE
Lee Buddle and Amy Ovenden of Dover celebrate the birth of their beautiful and precious daughter Olivia Amy Buddle on 11th August 2009.

CARTER
Amy and Lee are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful son Joshua Joseph Matthew Carter on 7th August 2009 , weighing 8lb 9oz.

CHANDLER
Evie Mae born on 11th July 2009, weighing 8lb 9oz. Daughter to Paul Chandler and Leanne Donnelly.

COLE
Simon and Catherine Cole of Surrey celebrate the birth of their twins on 6th August 2009 at Maidstone Hospital. Joshua Henry weighing 3lbs 14oz and Elsie Georgina weighing 4lbs 15oz.

COWELL
Zac Aston Cowell born at Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital on 6th August 2009 weighting 7lbs 4 ozs son to Leigh and Claire. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever

DAVIS
Colin and Claire are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Sophie Ella Davis, born on the 24th July 2009. A big thankyou to all our wonderful friends and family!

GOVE
Delighted to announce the birth of Harry Frank Gove on Tuesday 4th August 2009. A beautiful brother for George and son to Martin and Lucy.

HAMID
Khaled and Farida of Whitstable are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Jamilah Sofia, on 12th August 2009.

HAMMOND
Nicole and Stephen of Broadstairs are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Alyssa Nicole Connie, born on 12th August 2009 at QEQM. Sister to Ryan.

HIGHSTED
Jack and Robyn Highsted celebrate the birth of their daughter Summer Sarah Highsted on 3rd August 2009.

KAY
Jeff and Sally celebrate the birth of their twins Emily weighing 6lb 7oz and Jack weighing 5lb 9oz on 15th July 2009.

LEJEUNE
Emma and Simon, Leah, Brooklyn and Luca Lejeune celebrate the birth of their new arrival Sam Simon Jehan Lejeune on the 15th July 2009. Welcome to the world Sammy.

LEONARD
David and Alexandra Leonard of Herne Bay are pleased to announce the birth of baby Zak, on the 12th August 2009 weighing 7lb 13oz. A new brother for Ruby.

MAYHEAD
Amelia and Shane of Cliftonville are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Esme Lily, born on 5th August 2009 at QEQM. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

MCCORD
Beautiful baby Amillia Alexandra McCord born to mother Melanie and father Sean on 7th August 2009, weighing a healthy 8 lb 11 oz.

NOLAN
Tara Schirn and Steve Nolan are delighted to announce the birth of Pearl Naia Tallula Nolan who was born on 24th July 2009 weighing 8 lb 9 oz.

PAGE
Abigail Page born the 5th August 2009 to proud parents Leonie and Matthew. Sucess is getting what you want, happiness is liking what you get

PARKINSON
Ben and Lisa are delighted to announce the birth of their son Louis George Parkinson, born on 30th July 2009.

PHILLIPS
Welcome baby Holly Susan Phillips to the world! Love from Mum and Dad. Steven Phillips and Vikki Hudson of Canterbury xxx

SCALES
Jenna and Peter of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Archie Leigh, born on 5th August 2009 at QEQM. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

SENSIER
Amelia born on 3rd August 2009, weighing 7lb 13oz. Daughter to Nick and Juliet Sensier in Maidstone.

SHENSTONE
Carly Shenstone of Whitstable is delighted to announce the safe arrival of her beautiful daughter, Lola Summer, at 1.40 on 5th July weighing 7lb.

SPARKS
Andy and Tina Sparks celebrate the birth of their daughter Gemma Rebecca Sparks on the 4th August 2009. Sister to Hannah.

TAYLOR
Alexia and Daniel of Birchington are delighted to announce the birth of their son Eddie Robert, born at QEQM on 6th August 2009. Our most beautiful and precious son.

WEATHERLY
Nicola and Andrew of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Riley Sykes Weatherly, born on 6th August 2009 at QEQM. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

DEATHS

RICHARDSON
David Angus died peacefully at Maidstone hospital on the 8th August 2009, loving husband to Joyce, brother to Adelene and devoted father and father in law to Lindsay and Steve, Malcolm and Mary. Funeral Service at Charing Crematorium at 12 noon on 1st September, family flowers only.

SMITH
Ernest Gadsden Smith of Bridge died on 14th August 2009 aged 85, he will be sadly missed by his friends and family. Any enquiries to the Cooperative Funeral Care Sturry Road Canterbury.

STEARN
Kathleen Emily Stearn of Dover passed away peacefully on the 10th August 2009 aged 87. Beloved sister and auntie will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Walpole Bay Hotel & Living Museum

Step back in time...

From the moment you enter The Walpole you step back in time to the ambience of a bygone era. Whether your visit be on business or for pleasure you will appreciate the level of comfort and service The Walpole provides, with our spacious lounges, flower bedecked veranda, Edwardian restaurant, snooker room and our 1920s Ballroom with its original sprung maple dance floor. The Walpole has a full licence and two bars in which to entertain you.

We are internationally famous for our Traditional Sunday Lunches and Walpole Cream Teas which are a must during your stay! Although the museum and tea rooms are open every day to visitors.

The Walpole has 37 en-suite rooms, five of which have two bedrooms, so are ideal for families or groups of friends.

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Visit our new website www.kent.gov.uk/adulted

skills plus Kent County Council

Funds to save apprentices

CONSTRUCTION companies in two boroughs are set to receive a share of a £1 million national funding boost if they take on apprentices who have been laid off in the recession, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

ConstructionSkills has successfully bid for the funding from the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS).

Employers in Bexley and Bromley will be able to apply for financial support of up to £1,000 to provide training for displaced apprentices who are close to the end of their course.

Paul Newitt of ConstructionSkills, said: "We have been talking to the Government about the need to support employers and the funding from the National Apprenticeship Service will do just that.

"We are successful in placing thousands of apprentices with construction companies every year, so it would be a real shame if these apprentices, especially those who are so close to the finish line, were lost to the industry."

Simon Waugh, chief executive of the NAS, said: "In today's challenging times, and particularly as we prepare for the upturn, apprenticeships are a vital way of improving the skills of staff and generating a committed and valuable workforce."

For more details visit www.cskills.org or visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

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■ A SPECIALISED centre to help unemployed people in Medway find jobs and training opportunities has opened.

The Employ Medway Advice Centre launched on Chatham High Street on Tuesday and will provide information and signposting services.

The free advice will also help local companies with their recruitment needs. Job Centre Plus staff will make use of the facility in addition to local training providers and business start-up advisers.

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Jobs for Kent 44-46
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e-mail CV to mail@esm-uk.com or tel 01474 536360 for an application form

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required for a South Kent company. Ideally with Export experience. Sound Admin skills. £18 - £20k.

Please contact **Office Angels** on **01233 611780** or e-mail your CV to **nicola.hamley@office-angels.com**

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Theatre Royal MARGATE

Audience Development & Marketing Manager (£26-28K)
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For application packs please call 01843 293397, see our website www.theatreroyalmargate.com or email admin@theatreroyalmargate.com
Deadline for applications – Tuesday 15th September
Interviews – w/c 21st September 2009
Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

Maintenance Person – Medway

£18,491 + Benefits

A property management company is recruiting for a maintenance person for their site in Medway.

16th Edition or equivalent is essential to be considered for this role. This is a full time permanent role starting immediately.

Full job specification available from Helen Barrow on

0121 788 2334

or email

Helen@orchardoakrecruitment.co.uk

Orchard Oak Recruitment is a recruitment agency acting on behalf of this client.

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY

We require a Qualified Social worker (or working towards) to manage and develop a small up and coming fostering agency based in SE Kent. Previous fostering management not required but an advantage. This position is considered ideal for someone who would like the opportunity to develop their skills whilst bringing their expereince and ideas to expand and develop the business.

The ideal candidate will have experience working with children and families and preferably have worked within the fostering sector and/or fostered themselves.

For an informal chat and for further information, please contact Steve Richmond on 07710 145802 and 01892 740886 email: sr@benecareltd.co.uk

Finance Office Assistant

£14,891 – £16,663 (PAY AWARD PENDING) • 37 HOURS PER WEEK
BASED FAVERSHAM

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

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You will need to have good keyboard skills, be numerate and fully computer literate. Previous experience of working in a finance office and knowledge of Microsoft Office and Dynamics Great Plains is desirable but not essential.

In addition, you will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, on 01795 590795.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference: 592.

Closing date: Wednesday 2 September 2009.
Interview date: Friday 11 September 2009.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

K·C·A Services in the Community

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KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. You will be a member of the Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) team, and will need proficiency in copy-typing, minute-taking and data in-putting, as well as experience of working independently. A sound understanding and experience of using a range of computer applications, including Microsoft Access and Excel, are required. An understanding of statistics and basic data analysis is desirable, although a willingness to learn would be acceptable. You will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

Should you wish to discuss this role informally, please contact Smita Derodra or Karl Grice on 01795 590212.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number: 595

Closing date: Thursday 27 August 2009.
Interview date: Monday 14 September 2009.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.
Charity no: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

K·C·A Psychological Therapy Providers

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FoodForKent.co.uk is recruiting!! Due to the current rapid expansion of Food For Kent and its online home retail business we are recruiting for both full and part time staff to support our ongoing operations in Aldington, nr Ashford. We deliver high quality locally sourced food across Kent and London and require 2 individuals to put together customer orders, manage supplier relationships and order administration.
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Applications in writing, including the names and addresses of at least two character referees should be addressed for the personal attention of;

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Dealec
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DOVER
CT17 9SA

WWW.DEALEC.COM

south east business INNOVATION & GROWTH

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A strategic thinker with demonstrable leadership qualities and excellent communication skills, you will be required to work at a strategic level with partner institutions and regional organisations to build local business support delivery networks for pioneering companies that are likely to have a major impact on the growth of the South East economy.

For an informal discussion on this newly-created full-time post, please contact: **Bob Jones, Business Support Kent**. Telephone **01732 878028**

Application packs are available from: **Karen Fitzgerald: Karen.fitzgerald@businesslinkkent.co.uk**. Telephone **01732 878002**

Closing date for return of completed applications: **7 September 2009**

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

Public Sector

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Public Sector Continued on Page 43

Homes & Gardens

www.kentnews.co.uk

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Fax: 01634 333182

Minicom:
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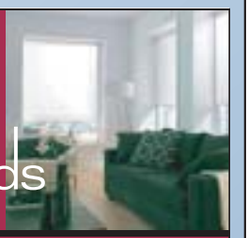

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Flowering well into autumn

By JANE JEWITT

THIS is supposed to be a difficult time for the gardener. The first flush of blooms has well and truly faded, the autumn colours have not yet begun.

There are in fact many plants that bridge the gap between early summer and autumn. If your roses are good quality and fairly new then they are likely to have a long flowering season; many of the modern roses available are repeat or continual flowering, disease resistant and well-scented.

Shrubs such as fuchsia, abelia and hydrangea will have started flowering in July and can continue into November.

Late flowering hardy perennials that are utterly reliable include aster, echinacea, sedum, helenium and schizostylis. Solanum is a beautiful late flowering climber, available in white and purple. The white form is not as hardy as the purple, so remember to choose your plant to suit the site.

Some of the tender perennials such as dahlia, salvia, canna and hedychium, the ginger lily, have fabulous colourful blooms and good foliage too, making them invaluable in the late summer border.

They can survive mild winters in well-drained soils, and if you provide them with a mulch of straw or compost they will have something as good as your warm, woollen winter coat.

If only we knew that a cold winter was on the way we would be able to dig the tender plants up in the late autumn and store them in the shed until next spring. It is simply impossible to go outside and attempt to dig them up when the ground is bone hard after a prolonged period of cold weather.

Penstemon, tagetes, osteospermum and cosmos are all plants that flower all summer long and well into the autumn. What could be more reliable in the garden than these?

One of gardening's joys, and frustrations in equal measure, is that plants don't always behave as expected, so to have some that are 100 per cent fail safe is a blessing.

You can manipulate the flowering season of many plants by pushing their natural boundaries. If you choose a shady part of the garden for a fuchsia it will be fine as long as it gets a little sun at some point in the day. Many perennials will thrive in shade and they will come into flower a few weeks later than if they were in an open and sunny spot. You can make use of this technique to prolong the season of a favourite plant.

By the same token, choosing a bright and sunny spot will encourage a plant to flower earlier in the year, but their season will be over earlier too, unless you are very careful with feeding and watering and dead-heading.

Experiment for yourself, when you are dividing perennials later this year, plant some clumps in that difficult shady corner instead of throwing them onto the compost heap.

It will not work for everything, lavender does not respond well to being planted in the shade, it simply will not flower. Perennials that thrive in shade include campanula, bergenia, lysmachia and aquilegea.

BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL: Dahlias (above) have fabulous colourful blooms and good foliage too making them invaluable in the late summer border; and Cosmos (middle) and Osteospermum (far right) flower all summer long and well into the autumn

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From crash

Creating glamorous, glitzy rooms on the cheap isn't easy, but style guru Abigail Ahern – who runs one of the country's most hip interiors companies – reveals her top tips and tricks

By GABRIELLE FAGAN

IF JUST the thought of using colour or, even worse, turning your hand to the dreaded DIY makes you turn a whiter shade of pale, then Abigail Ahern's home is definitely not a destination for you.

She's done both things in her house to dazzling effect. Vibrant splashes of pillar box red, fuschia pink and vivid yellow artfully transform furniture and accessories into eye-catching works of art.

Close inspection of neat shelves, skilfully sanded and painted floorboards, and added architectural details like the ornate ceiling roses are proof that Abigail's a dab hand at the practical as well as the punchy.

It's only fair to reveal that she does have a certain amount of 'insider' knowledge as she's a renowned designer, who owns one of the hip interiors retail destinations in London, Atelier (www.atelierabigailahern.com).

Abigail says with a smile: "I do realise that experimenting with colour and DIY are both just about the scariest things on the planet for most people.

"But turning your home into a fabulously stylish pad is what interior decorating is all about. And you don't have to have an A-list budget or even a personal stylist to live a life of glitz and glamour."

Encouragingly, a lot of the ideas for her own home were inspired by economy because, when she and her photographer husband Graham moved into the four-storey house, they found that the necessary structural alterations soaked up all their budget.

"Luckily, paint and wallpaper are the most transforming things, and you just need to start with a feature wall, or paper an alcove and you realise how incredible the effect is," she says.

"Once you start, you realise that using colour really isn't rocket science, and DIY is truly perfectly straightforward for simple jobs which make all the difference to your home."

Wooden floors, walls and doors have been given a lick of paint in a dense shade, providing a backdrop for the fluorescent pink spray-painted occasional table. Team this up with an assortment of junk-shop lamps, interesting artwork and whimsical wallpaper and the room becomes a talking point

Colour is back in fashion, with hot, funky shades combining with traditional ones to create a really individual look

Abigail has decanted her decor wisdom, including money-saving stylists tips and guidance on basic DIY, into a beautifully illustrated new book, A Girl's Guide To Decorating.

It could be a boon for recessionistas opting to improve rather than move, and she says persuasively: "What's exciting about interiors right now is that virtually anything goes.

"With a pinch of creativity, an eye for a bargain and few tricks of the trade, you can turn a gloomy, outdated space into a complete Aladdin's cave of gorgeousness."

Follow her top tips and turn your home into a hot property and a cool place to live.

Taking the plunge

There's no need to despair if your home suffers from sad decor and last-century fixtures, says Abigail.

"Look beyond that and you could find that a few simple revamps would sort it out. By dipping your toe into DIY, you can effortlessly turn bland and boring into snazzy and super-cool."

But, she cautions, it's all in the planning, and before rushing into changes you should decide what you'll use a space for.

"Good design should always be planned around lifestyle, so the decor should suit its function. Also, it's helpful to identify the ugly features of the room you want to hide and those you wish to highlight."

Get the wow factor

The most important thing, says Abigail, is to really personalise the space.

"Don't limit yourself to one look, you wouldn't in your clothes, so don't do it in your rooms. Feel free to mix and match styles of furniture and decor in your own unique way, then they'll become a talking point."

Texture: "This brings rooms to life, the professionals marry leather with brick, silk with wool, raffia with glass," she says.

"So aim for contrast by perhaps having smooth floors with rough walls, grainy chenille cushions with velvet blankets."

Zoning: In multi-purpose rooms she advises using "different rugs for different areas to give each its own personality. A decorative screen, a free-standing bookcase, or perhaps a group of large plants can create divisions in a room."

pad to flash pad

Lighting: Lighting should never be an afterthought, says Abigail.

"Each room needs a combination of three lighting types. So layer lights by mixing and matching a selection of pendant lights, recessed table and floor lights, not to mention a smattering of candles and fairy lights."

Storage: This is key, she emphasises: "Glam homes banish clutter behind closed doors, opening up the space and allowing the eye to take in a stunning piece of statement furniture, say, or an invigorating colour scheme."

Treasures: Your personality is reflected in your possessions and she points out: "You can spend top whack on sofas, cabinets and up-to-the-minute entertainment systems, but they won't give you half as much satisfaction as the objects that are meaningful to you and you alone, and make you feel happy.

"Display your quirky knick-knacks with chutzpah and you'll create a home that's like no other."

Pattern: Decorating with pattern, one of Abigail's trademarks, as well as with colour, is a surefire way of creating a highly individual design.

"Start off by being as adventurous as you can, remembering that rooms can easily take up to six or seven different pattern combinations without looking too crazy," she says.

"Generally speaking, it's good to use a variety of both pattern and scale – a large stripe juxtaposed with say, a small floral pattern."

Alternatively, she advises choosing designs from a similar theme, Chinoiserie or botanical prints, for example, to bring a look together, or with a similar shade in common.

Top tip: Break up pattern by setting it against white woodwork and accessories, or a dark tone on the walls. Alternatively, feature pattern in accent items, like cushions, throws or rugs.

Stylist tips

Abigail reveals stylist's tips that can be used for an easy and cheap way to give a room a make-over.

1. "A length of fancy wallpaper becomes a work of art when casually hung from a picture rail or cupboard by bulldog clips, or pinned up with drawing pins."

2. A cupboard's easily made bang-up-to-trend with new knobs and handles. Existing handles can be covered in fabric, or exchanged for leather, brass ones, or coloured resin.

3. "Inject new life into tired furniture by giving it a 'rock-n-roll' spray-paint makeover," she suggests. "Unfashionable brown wood furniture, picked up cheaply at second hand shops, and given a coat of paint, maybe a Barbie pink or tomato red, will have an instant modern zing."

4. Create a stunning floor show by painting floors dark and glossy, transforming them from standard to sophisticated. "Painted floors are beautifully reflective, and it's the perfect way to spruce up a staircase," she says. "Also they actually improve with age! Even when beaten up and scuffed with wear and tear, that so-in-vogue soft, weathered patina never goes out of style."

Layered lighting creates the perfect ambience for evening entertaining

This living room really comes alive with its combination of pendant, floor lights and cadelabras. Swathed in vintage silks, the decorative lamps have all been given a similar treatment for a unifying effect

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DON'T DO IT: Don't carry out electrical work yourself unless it meets safety requirements

Top tips on being safe with electrics around the home

By **JULIA GRAY**

• It can be tempting to do simple electrical work around the home yourself to save money, but these jobs can be dangerous and it's vital that they meet legal safety requirements.

Part P of Building Regulations was introduced by the Government in 2005 to prevent accidents caused by faulty electrical jobs, and most such work carried out in the home must comply with it.

• There are certain exemptions to Part P, involving electrical jobs that competent DIYers can do themselves. Minor work that doesn't involve the addition of a new electrical circuit, such as adding new sockets or light switches to an existing circuit, doesn't have to be done by a registered electrician or inspected by your local council's Building Control department.

However, it must comply with wiring regulations to ensure that it's safe, so if you don't know exactly what you're doing, leave it to the professionals.

• Kitchens and bathrooms are known as 'special location's for the purposes of electrical work – unless you are only replacing accessories, work in these rooms should be carried out by a registered electrician.

Gardens are another high-risk area, so get a registered electrician to install water features, outdoor lighting and the like, rather than attempting to do it yourself.

• If you do employ an electrician, make sure they're registered with a government-approved scheme, such as NICEIC, to carry out electrical work. After completion of the job, the electrician must issue you with a Part P certificate to confirm that the work complies with Building Regulations, so you know that it's safe and legal.

If you don't have this certificate, you may have difficulty selling your home.

• If you're planning electrical work, check with Building Control about what you can and can't do yourself. It's a criminal offence not to comply with Building Regulations, and if work in your home or rental property doesn't, then you could face a fine of up to £5,000.

Find out more about Part P at www.nice-ic.org.uk and www.donttakethep.co.uk.

SEE THE LIGHT: Gardens are another high-risk area, so get a registered electrician to install outdoor lighting

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Pave the way to a lovely garden

By TONY KENNEALLY

FOR most landscaping projects, while the plants provide the softness and the finished design, it is the elements of hard landscaping – the structures and surfaces – which provide the framework.

Whether it is the practical access afforded by a well-crafted path, the hard landscape is every bit as important in creating the overall 'feel' – and contributing to the usefulness – of any garden, large or small.

Your front garden is just as important to look after and spend time on as the rest of the house. This is because the front garden is the area that people see first when visiting your home. The back garden is where you will spend a lot of time relaxing and entertaining, both are very important areas that should be kept as nice as possible. Using hard landscaping can be a great way of adding great-looking features without the need to constantly maintain them.

A patio area makes a great place to entertain. A place to put a barbecue or seating area. This doesn't have to take up too much of the garden and can be created relatively cheaply. Make sure you have a sturdy base and use materials that won't be affected too much by the elements.

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When planning your design, considerations should include outdoor services, for example the supply and positioning of an outdoor tap and for laying electrical cables to sheds, garages and exterior lights along the driveway or in the garden. These installations need to be in place prior to laying hard landscaping.

Advance thinking, good planning and an awareness of the total design scheme will reduce the risk of having to undo what has already been done.

Once the hard landscaping has been completed, you are then free to deal with the fine detail of your remaining garden design at leisure.

• *Tony Kenneally is from UK Stone Imports Ltd in Hersden.*

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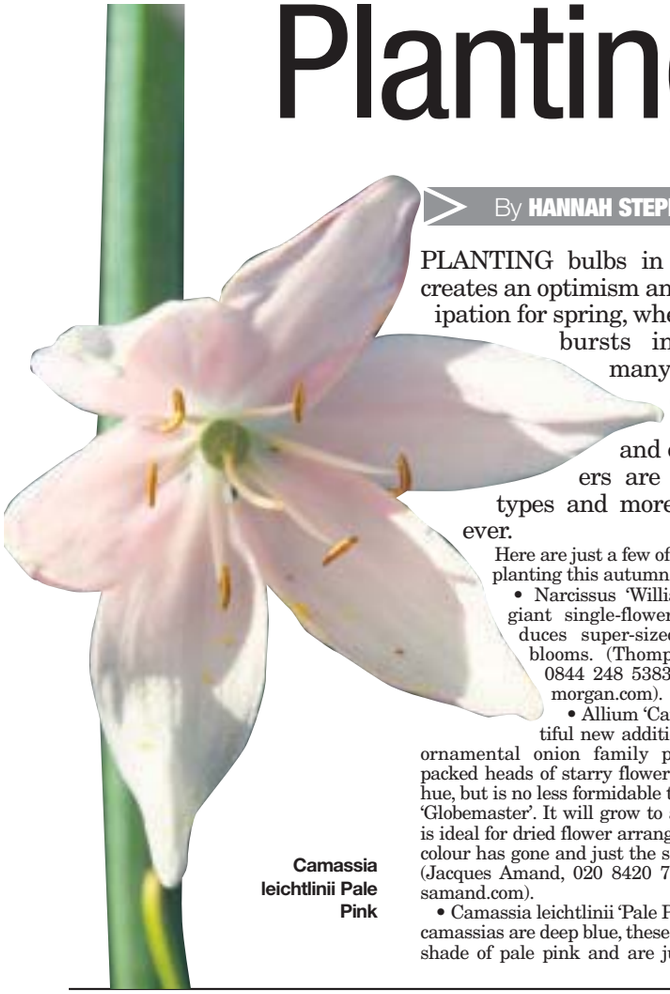
Planting some colourful



Camassia leichtlinii Pale Pink

By **HANNAH STEPHENSON**

PLANTING bulbs in the autumn creates an optimism and air of anticipation for spring, when everything bursts into life and many of the bulb specialists, mail order and online suppliers are offering new types and more choice than ever.

Here are just a few of the best bulbs for planting this autumn:

• Narcissus 'William Park' – This giant single-flowered daffodil produces super-sized, 15-centimetre blooms. (Thompson & Morgan, 0844 248 5383, www.thompson-morgan.com).

• Allium 'Carlito' – This beautiful new addition to the popular ornamental onion family produces densely packed heads of starry flowers in a subtle lilac hue, but is no less formidable than the favourite 'Globemaster'. It will grow to around 75cm and is ideal for dried flower arrangements when the colour has gone and just the seedheads remain. (Jacques Amand, 020 8420 7110, www.jacque-samand.com).

• Camassia leichtlinii 'Pale Pink' – While most camassias are deep blue, these are a more subtle shade of pale pink and are just as hardy and tough as other leichtlinii, but broad-petalled in a soft baby pink. (Avon Bulbs, 01460 242 177, www.avonbulbs.co.uk).

• Anemone 'Jerusalem Mixed' – Originating from Israel, these colourful, poppy-like blooms are produced on long stems from each corm. They are easy to grow and ideal for creating a stunning spring or early summer display in your garden – and your vases. (Thompson & Morgan, 0844 248 5383, www.thompson-morgan.com).

• Crocus 'Vanguard' – This pretty lilac specimen bridges the gap between smaller-flowered, earlier crocuses and the March-flowering giants derived from C vernus. It needs good drainage and an open, sunny position to flower and looks good in drifts in grass mixed with short, early narcissi such as 'Jetfire'. (Avon Bulbs, 01460 242 177, www.avonbulbs.co.uk; Pottertons Nursery,

Allium 'Carlito' above; and right Hyacinth Masquerade

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• Hyacinth 'Prince of Love' – Double-flowered hyacinths are a rarity, but this dramatic and fragrant variety with its densely-packed flower spikes looks great in beds, borders or patio pots. (Thompson & Morgan, 0844 248 5383, www.thompson-morgan.com).

• Allium 'Silver Spring' – A recent introduction from Israel, the white lollipop flowers on 75cm stems are unique, with each floret sporting a distinctive deep-pink centre.

It flowers in May and June and is widely available. (Walkers Bulbs, 01406 426 216, www.bulbs.co.uk; Jacques Amand, 020 8420 7110, www.jacquesamand.com; Broadleigh Bulbs 01823 286 231, www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk; Unwins – stockists call 028 8772 7500).

• Narcissus 'Tall Bonair' – This impressive double daffodil grows to 35cm and has pale cream petals with a ruffled lemon-yellow centre, flowering in April. It's also an excellent cut flower. (Unwins – stockists call 028 8772 7500).

• Tulipa clusiana 'Peppermint Stick' – Not new, but worth a try. This pint-sized tulip, which grows to just 25cm, produces dainty flowers in April with deep rosy-red outer petals just edged silvery white. The inner petals show a deep steel-blue base when open in the sun. They originate from the Mediterranean and the Far East, and are popular in rockeries and wild gardens, or can be naturalised. (Avon Bulbs, 01460 242 177, www.avonbulbs.co.uk; Miniature Bulbs & Choice Bulbs, 01423 542 819, miniaturebulbs.co.uk; Gee Tee Bulb Company, 01205 260 412, www.gee-tee.co.uk).

• Hyacinth 'Garden Masquerade': This richly-scented variety produces deep-purple flowers which make a real statement in patio containers in spring, especially if they are close to the door, where you can enjoy their delicious odour as you venture into the garden. (Unwins – stockists call 028 8772 7500).

Tulipa 'Peppermintstick'

Daffodil 'Bonair'

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ROOT OUT: Time to thin the parsnips and have a tidying session including pulling out bad swedes to to give the good ones room

August on the plot

TENDING ROOT VEG

Now is a good time to have a thorough weeding and tidying session in amongst the root veg, which is what Dirty Nails has been busy doing this week.

Parsnips are growing nicely, making good growth despite heavy losses to badgers in July. Dirty Nails has been using his own urine as a repellent, which seems to have done the trick. He has weeded and hoed through the crop, taking care not to damage the parsnip tops. Browned-off leaves have been thrown onto the compost heap. This not only keeps the crop clean but also removes slug and snail hidey-holes.

Swedes are beginning to fatten up. Some are cricket-ball sized. The odd plant has not grown and the small roots have turned to mush. Whilst weeding in the swede bed Dirty Nails has taken out all of these bad ones plus leaves from others that are yellowing.

Keeping the crop healthy in this way is important, to keep the good swedes in peak condition. Being a member of the cabbage family, they are attractive to both the large and small white butterflies as food plants for their caterpillars. Dirty Nails checks for eggs, which he crushes, and caterpillars, which he carefully removes to nasturtiums grown as an alternative food plant elsewhere on the plot.

He is pleased with his scorzonera. Judging from the lush crowns of long, spatula-shaped leaves, their elongated thong-like roots should be going down deep. Some scorzonera are sending up flower spikes. Dirty Nails cuts out these flowers. They resemble beautiful, ragged dandelion heads on two foot (60cm) stalks. Severed low down, this concentrates the plant's energy into the roots.

At this time of year, rows of salsify look similar to leeks. They are a highly rewarding, low-maintenance crop. Their tussocks of grey-green leaves are so massed that they are smothering out most weeds. The odd rogue thistle can be teased out by hand, or chopped off with a long handled hoe.

All these roots require little more than a watchful eye, and to be kept moist and weed-free throughout the coming autumn.

VEGETABLE SNIPPETS: OUT-OF-SEASON PARSNIPS

It is not just foraging badgers that like to enjoy parsnips out of season. The home-producer can, too. For something different at this time of year, and as a taste of things to come, he might lift a bunch or two for a roasted treat. To give them that special sweetness, which only comes as a result of the first hard winter frosts, Dirty Nails pops the pale roots into his refrigerator for a couple or three days prior to cooking them up.

• Joe Hashman's third book, 'On The Plot With Dirty Nails: a practical guide to fruit and vegetable gardening in words and pictures' (ISBN 9781905862320) is published by How To Books on September 25, rrp £12.99.

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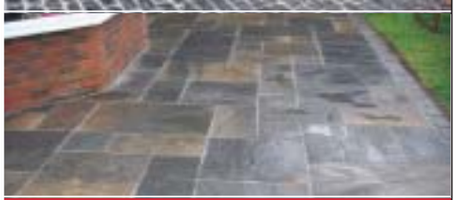

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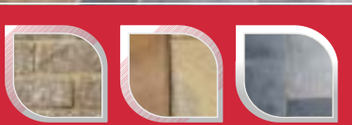

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Section Manager Construction Craft **08/12**
37 hrs per week, salary starting at £34,366 per annum

Section Manager Fine Arts, Crafts and Design **09/33**
37 hrs per week, salary starting at £34,366 per annum

Supply Lecturers Health & Social Care **S/HS**
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers Animal Care and Land Based Studies **S/AC**
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers Public Services **S/PS**
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturer Higher Education Health and Social Care to teach on HND and BA (Hons) courses. **S/HE/HSC**
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.

Supply Lecturers Higher Education Animal Science to teach on HND and BSc courses. **S/HE/AS**
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of Animal Psychology, Microbiology, Anatomy and Histology is required. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.

Supply Lecturers Higher Education to teach FD Moving Image Production and BA (Hons) TV Production and Moving Image Cultures **S/HE/MI**
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant area of Moving Image Production and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of multi camera TV studio recording, multi camera location recording and post production using Avid/ Final Cut Pro is required for applied work. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.

Supply Lecturer Higher Education Teacher Education **S/HE/TE**
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject, a recognised Teaching Qualification and be conversant with the deliver of PTLLS, CTLLS, DTLLS and related Teacher Education programmes.

Caretaker **09/55**
37 hours per week, salary starting at £15,312 per annum

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Staff benefits include:

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We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of the Life and Work Skills for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The successful candidate will have good communication skills, a patient and mature attitude and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

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Closing date: Friday 28 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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For an application form and job description please contact:
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Telephone: 01474 33 70 00
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Tel: 01732 353637
Email
gwilcox@harwoods.uk.com

Administrator

Ashford
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Food for Kent
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Margate
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Part-time cook

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Medway
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Medway Council
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Tel: 01634 333333
Email jobs@medway.gov.uk

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Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 17th August 2009
To apply/more information:
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Email humanresources@
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Closing Date: 02 September 2009
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saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

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Section Manager Construction Craft

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Section Manager Fine Arts, Crafts and Design

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Canterbury College
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Closing Date: Friday 11th September
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Supply Lecturer Higher Education Health and Social Care to teach on HND and BA (Hons) courses.

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. Supply Lecturers Higher Education Animal Science to teach on HND and BSc courses.You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. Supply Lecturers Higher Education Animal Science to teach on HND and BSc courses. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme• Sports Hall & Gym• Proximity to main bus & train stations• Generous Holiday Allowance• Close to City Centre• Staff Discount Scheme
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HE/AS
Tel: 01227 811282
(24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Vacancies filled fast online with
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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Supply Lecturers Higher Education to teach FD Moving Image Production and BA (Hons) TV Production and Moving Image Cultures

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant area of Moving Image Production and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of multi camera TV studio recording, multi camera location recording and post production using Avid/ Final Cut Pro is required for applied work. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant area of Moving Image Production and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of multi camera TV studio recording, multi camera location recording and post production using Avid/ Final Cut Pro is required for applied work. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. The closing date for the above posts is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HE/TE
Tel: 01227 811282
(24 hr answerphone)
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Supply Lecturer Higher Education Teacher Education

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject, a recognised Teaching Qualification and be conversant with the deliver of PTLLS, CTLLS, DTLLS and related Teacher Education programmes.The closing date for the above post is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacanciesCALL01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HE/TE
Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Caretaker

Canterbury
Salary: 37 hours per week, salary starting at £15,312 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on c quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/55
Tel: 01227 811282
(24 hr answerphone)
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Construction

Sheerness
Salary: 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £19,248 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.The closing date for the above posts is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Generous Holiday Allowance • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Close to Town Centre.
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Sheppey College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/07
Tel: 01227 811282
(24 hr answerphone) quoting
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Manufacturing Assistant

Sandwich
Salary: £6.00 - £8.00 per hour
Our client, based in Sandwich, is looking for two willing and flexible Manufacturing Assistants to start at the beginning of September. • You will be required to safely and successfully operate machinery used to manufacture one of this Company's many products. • Follow and accurately complete manufacturing batch records. • Competently run and maintain the Companies machinery. The ideal candidate will have worked within a Manufacturing environment, will have a can-do attitude and will be available immediately. Any Pharmaceutical or manufacturing experience under GMP conditions would also be advantageous. Both vacancies are contracts until December 2009. Great rates of pay available! Apply now for immediate consideration and more details! Due to the high volume of applicants applying for all roles, we can only reply to candidates with the most relevant skills and experience. If you have not heard back from us within 48 hours of your application please assume that you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.
To apply/more information:
Clare Morris
Morgan Jones Recruitment Consultants
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762233
Email clare@morganjones.net

Estate Agency, Property

Estate Agent - MJ961

Margate
Salary: Negotiable
Closing Date: 01/09/09
We have an opportunity for an experienced, tenacious and hard working candidate to work for an established Estate Agent in East Kent. The successful candidate will need to be able to demonstrate the following: • Be target orientated • Able to work on own initiative. In return our client is offering a position within an established agency, rewarding salary package with the possibility of progression for the right candidate. Due to the high volume of applicants applying for all roles, we can only reply to candidates with the most relevant skills and experience. If you have not heard back from us within 48 hours of your application please assume that you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.
To apply/more information:
Anna Wiget
Morgan Jones Recruitment Consultants
Quoting Job Ref: MJ961
Tel: 01843604890
Email anna@morganjones.net

Sales Negotiators

Kent
Salary: TBA
OPPORTUNITIES IN KENT/SURREY/SUSSEX AREAS • Sales Negotiators • Lettings Negotiators • Property Managers • Mortgage Consultants. Are you keen and ambitious? Looking for a career with a professional company? Are you dedicated to providing a top class memorable service and want to stand out in a crowd? Have you got what it takes to be one of tomorrows' managers? Connells are looking for quality people to join our fast expanding team that is one of the most successful Company's around. Excellent Remuneration Package Offered. Interested? Apply in writing to: ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk Or send your CV with covering letter to: Ynés Anderson, Connells, 30 High Street, Horley, Surrey RH6 7BB.
To apply/more information:
Connells
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk

Lettings Negotiators

Kent
Salary: TBA
OPPORTUNITIES IN KENT/SURREY/SUSSEX AREAS • Sales Negotiators • Lettings Negotiators • Property Managers • Mortgage Consultants. Are you keen and ambitious? Looking for a career with a professional company? Are you dedicated to providing a top class memorable service and want to stand out in a crowd? Have you got what it takes to be one of tomorrows' managers? Connells are looking for quality people to join our fast expanding team that is one of the most successful Company's around. Excellent Remuneration Package Offered. Interested? Apply in writing to: ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk Or send your CV with covering letter to: Ynés Anderson, Connells, 30 High Street, Horley, Surrey RH6 7BB.
To apply/more information:
Connells
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk

Property Managers

Kent
Salary: TBA
OPPORTUNITIES IN KENT/SURREY/SUSSEX AREAS • Sales Negotiators • Lettings Negotiators • Property Managers • Mortgage Consultants. Are you keen and ambitious? Looking for a career with a professional company? Are you dedicated to providing a top class memorable service and want to stand out in a crowd? Have you got what it takes to be one of tomorrows' managers? Connells are looking for quality people to join our fast expanding team that is one of the most successful Company's around. Excellent Remuneration Package Offered. Interested? Apply in writing to: ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk Or send your CV with covering letter to: Ynés Anderson, Connells, 30 High Street, Horley, Surrey RH6 7BB
To apply/more information:
Connells
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk

Mortgage Consultants

Kent
Salary: TBA
OPPORTUNITIES IN KENT/SURREY/SUSSEX AREAS • Sales Negotiators • Lettings Negotiators • Property Managers • Mortgage Consultants. Are you keen and ambitious? Looking for a career with a professional company? Are you dedicated to providing a top class memorable service and want to stand out in a crowd? Have you got what it takes to be one of tomorrows' managers? Connells are looking for quality people to join our fast expanding team that is one of the most successful Company's around. Excellent Remuneration Package Offered. Interested? Apply in writing to: ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk Or send your CV with covering letter to: Ynés Anderson, Connells, 30 High Street, Horley, Surrey RH6 7BB.
To apply/more information:
Connells
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk

100s
more jobs online
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

Maidstone
Salary: £5.73 per hour
Closing Date: 24th August 2009
WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT Maidstone, from £5.73 per hour dependant on experience Established in 1984, we are Kent's largest independent motor components distributor covering SE London and Kent from our six depots. Our Maidstone Branch is seeking a hard working and enthusiastic individual to pick items for delivery and help with other warehouse duties. You will need to have experience in a busy warehouse environment, be willing to work Saturdays and be able to check parts accurately against order notes. To apply, please forward your CV to humanresources@scmf.co.uk, or alternatively call 0208 308 6812 for an application form. WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.
To apply/more information:
SC Motor Factors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 308 6812
Email
humanresources@scmf.co.uk

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Computer Support Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: £7.00 - £8.50 per hour
Our central Canterbury based client is looking for a 2nd Line Support Assistant to start with them immediately. Extensive experience is not required but a background or intermediate knowledge of Computer Support is essential. This is a temporary role until the middle of October and is a great opportunity to gain experience with an established Company. Please apply now with a CV for immediate consideration and a full job description.
To apply/more information:
Clare Morris
Morgan Jones Recruitment Consultants
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762233
Email clare@morganjones.net

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Customer Service Agents

Kent
Salary: £13,819
Serving thousands of customers every day and operating throughout South East London and Kent, as well as in parts of East Sussex, here at Southeastern every day brings something new. This is your opportunity to join us at the front-line. Often the first face of the business that our customers see, you'll assist commuters and leisure travellers alike - and you'll do it with a warm and welcoming approach. Dealing with queries, making announcements, carrying out safety and security duties and taking responsibility for passenger safety - all are aspects of entry level roles that offer lots of variety, excellent benefits and real scope for development within the rail industry. If you're proactive with excellent communication and customer care skills, enjoy helping people and are happy to work shifts that include early starts and late finishes, you could soon be enjoying a competitive salary, pension scheme and free travel on Southeastern, London Midland and Southern rail services. Salaries start at £13,819. After a qualifying period, you will also get reduced rate rail travel on other train operators, including European travel. For an application pack, please email careers@southeasternrailway.co.uk
www.southeasternrailway.co.uk
To apply/more information:
South Eastern Railway
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email careers@southeasternrailway.co.uk

Experienced Waitstaff

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA

Is your CV up to date?
take advantage of a free online CV review
JobsforKent.co.uk

WANTED Experienced Waitstaff for Ramsgate's newest and best restaurant. Please call: 01843 851515.
To apply/more information:
Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 851515
Email harrietleigh@gmail.com

Management, Senior Positions

Audience Development and Marketing Manager

Margate
Salary: £26-28K
Closing Date: Tuesday 15th September
Audience Development & Marketing Manager (£26-28K) For application packs please call 01843 293397, see our website www.theatreroyalmargate.com or email admin@ theatreroyalmargate.com Deadline for applications - Tuesday 15th September Interviews - w/c 21st September 2009 Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Theatre Royal
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 293397
Email admin@ theatreroyalmargate.com

AN INNOVATIVE CHALLENGE

West Malling
Salary: c£65,000 pa – funded until 31 March 2012
Closing Date: 7 September 2009
• Do you want to work with some of the most exciting businesses in the South East? • Are you an inspirational leader with a passion for innovation? • Have you been directly involved in growing a business? We are seeking an experienced Executive Director with strong management qualities to head up and drive forward an initiative supporting high growth businesses through a not-forprofit organisation based in, and responsible for, the Kent and Medway region. A strategic thinker with demonstrable leadership qualities and excellent communication skills, you will be required to work at a strategic level with partner institutions and regional organisations to build local business support delivery networks for pioneering companies that are likely to have a major impact on the growth of the South East economy. For an informal discussion on this newly-created full-time post, please contact: Bob Jones, Business Support Kent. Telephone 01732 878028 Application packs are available from: Karen Fitzgerald: Karen.fitzgerald@businesslinkkent.co.uk. Telephone 01732 878002.
To apply/more information:
Karen Fitzgerald
Business Link Kent Community Interest Company
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 878002
Email Karen.fitzgerald@ businesslinkkent.co.uk

Marketing, Advertising

Exhibition Stand Design, Manufacture and Management

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Exhibition Stand Design, Manufacture & Management based in Gravesend, require EXHIBITION CARPENTERS for both workshop and site work e-mail CV to mail@esm-uk.com or tel 01474 536360 for an application form.
To apply/more information:
Esm Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 536360
Email mail@esm-uk.com

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Community Drug Workers

Kent
Salary: £21,306 – £27,573 + ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170
Closing Date: 21 August 2009
KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service. Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable, along with a qualification to diploma level in a relevant area - nursing, counselling or social work for example. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference. Interview date: 2 September 2009 in Maidstone.
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 589
Tel: 01795 590635
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Activities Co-ordinator

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home Require Part-time cook Hours - Saturday and Sunday - 07:30-18:30m and 3 afternoons a week - 14:00-18:30 and Activities Co-ordinator. Care experience preferred but not essential. Good organisational skills also required to include arranging day trips and acitivies. Min 25 hours per week. For more information. Please call - Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527.
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Senior and Day Carers

Deal
Salary: TBA
Friendly, small care home requires senior and day carers 30 hours plus per week, Experience is essential, fluency in English is required Please ring 01304 372312 for an informal chat with the manager to arrange an interview.
To apply/more information:
Rosehurst Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 372312
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Saturday Night Carer

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
BETHANY LODGE CARE HOME Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch Requires A Saturday Night Carer, 8pm - 8am. To join our team of professionals caring for young people with disabilities Rewarding and friendly environment, Enhanced rates for NVQ Tel: 01303 872289 for more information And application form. All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Night Care Assistant

Deal
Salary: tba
2 set nights per week at 19 hours.
To apply/more information:
Manager
Bradfields School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 360960
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Afternoon Care Assistant

Deal
Salary: tba
3-7pm daily.
To apply/more information:
the Manager
Bradfields School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 360960
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Various Positions Within Health and Social Care

Kent
Salary: tba
Closing Date: 1 September 2009
The Kent LINk is an innovative local watchdog for health and social care in Kent. The Governors' Group looks after the operation of the LINk in terms of its resources and ensuring it operates in a legal and proper way and in accordance with its governance arrangements. It also oversees the operation of the LINk's Priorities Panel and LINk projects. The term of office for the current Kent LINk Governors comes to an end on 30 September 2009. A selection event will be held during September 2009. Governors are entitled to reimbursement of their travel and certain other costs. www.thekentlink.co.uk Do you have skills in the following areas? - Communications and PR - Equality and diversity - Governance - Community engagement and partnerships - Facilitation skills - Finance - Performance management - Project management - Strategic thinker This is your exciting opportunity to influence the way your health and social care services are delivered in Kent.
To apply/more information:
Kent and Medway Networks Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 297050,
Email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
We require a Qualified Social worker (or working towards) to manage and develop a small up and coming fostering agency based in SE Kent. Previous fostering management not required but an advantage. This position is considered ideal for someone who would like the opportunity to develop their skills whilst bringing their expereince and ideas to expand and develop the business. The ideal candidate will have experience working with children and families and preferably have worked within the fostering sector and/or fostered themselves. For an informal chat and for further information, please contact Steve Richmond on 07710 145802 and 01892 740886 email: sr@benecareltd.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Steve Richmond
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07710 145802 and 01892 740886
Email sr@benecareltd.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Telesales Executives Urgently Required

Deal
Salary: £7/hr plus Commission
Closing Date: 15/08/09
To apply/more information:
Anna Wiget
Morgan Jones Recruitment Consultants
Quoting Job Ref: MJ983
Tel: 01843604890
Email anna@morganjones.net

Sales Consultants

Dartford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Somebody Recruitment
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07511551799
Email
jo@weneedsomebody.co.uk

Florist

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Sharrock Insurance Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07971 159078
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Duty Front of House Manager

Margate
Salary: £16K pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 15th September
To apply/more information:
Theatre Royal
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 293397
Email admin@ theatreroyalmargate.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/01110/OA – Land North Of Mill House Lane Addington West Malling Kent – Mr Tony Wilson is applying for Outline Application: Erection of a detached dwelling. Reason: CA DEPART

TM/09/01934/FL & TM/09/01915/CA – Wateringbury Place 50 Canon Lane Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PQ – Wateringbury Place Holdings are applying for substantial demolition of an existing lean to building ancillary staff accommodation and rebuilding and extending. Reason: LB CA

TM/09/01928/FL – 3 Church Villas Long Mill Lane Platt Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8LZ – Mr D Raymond is applying to demolish existing garage and erect 2 no. semi detached houses. Reason: CA

TM/09/01940/FL – Land At Brewers Hall Farm Tonbridge Road Mereworth Maidstone Kent – Trustees Of The EGW are applying for change of use from B1 use to B8 use. Reason: LB

TM/09/01396/FL & TM/09/01963/LB – Ford Place Ford Lane Wrotham Heath Sevenoaks Kent ME19 7SE – Mr D Nokes is applying for new boundary wall. Reason: LB HH

TM/09/01810/FL – Two Trees House High Cross Road Ivy Hatch Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0NN – Mr And Mrs Rigney are applying for loft conversion to provide two bedrooms, bathroom and playroom, inc. three dormers, seven roof lights and one gable window. Reason: CA HH

TM/09/01984/LB – Annexe At Corners The Street Ightham Sevenoaks Kent – Mr And Mrs Tully are applying for Listed Building Application: Demolition of existing rear lean-to extension, internal alterations at first floor and the addition of a matching first floor window at the rear. Reason: CA LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 13 September 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

23 August 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Medway Council
Report of Local Government Ombudsman

The Local Government Ombudsman has issued a report following his investigation of seven complaints against Medway Council. The complaints were about a planning matter. The ombudsman found that there had been maladministration on the part of the council. This caused injustice to the complainants.

Copies of the report will be available for public inspection during normal office hours at Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR for three weeks starting on 24 August, 2009. Anyone is entitled to take copies of the report or extracts from it. Copies will be supplied at a reasonable charge.

Because maladministration was found, the council must now consider the report and tell the ombudsman within three months the action it has taken or proposes to take on it.

Medway Serving You

Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee
Notice of Application for Confirmation of Byelaws

Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966
Sea Fisheries (Byelaws) Regulations 1985

The Committee is seeking confirmation of changes to two existing byelaws:

Cockle Fishery Limitation on Quantities of Cockles that may be Removed - It is intended to include a provision to halve the daily catch which can be taken from certain areas, following a specified consultation process.

Minimum Fish sizes - It is intended to include a minimum size for scallops of 11cm.

The Committee also seeks confirmation of one new byelaw:

Dredging for Scallops - It is intended to limit vessels to 12 spring dredges each not exceeding 85cm.

Copies of the byelaws in full may be inspected at, or obtained free of charge from the address stated below or e-mail: taylor-joan@btconnect.com.

Any person who wishes to object to the confirmation of the above byelaw must send a statement of his objection in writing to the Minister for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, c/o Area 2C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR within 28 days of the publication of this notice and must send a copy of the statement of objection to the Clerk of the Committee of the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee.

Dated this day of 10 August 2009

Mr P Sass, Clerk, Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee, Paragon House, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9HD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
FOOTPATH MR33 (PART) SNODLAND
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2009

The above named Order (hereinafter referred to as the Order) was made on 17 August 2009. The effect of the Order will be to divert that part of the public footpath MR33 at Snodland, which commences at point A (OSGR TQ 7038 6253) and runs in a southerly direction for approximately 169 metres to point B (OSGR TQ 7034 6237) to a new length of footpath numbered MR33, with a width of 2 metres commencing at the aforementioned point A and running in a generally southerly direction for approximately 169 metres to point C (OSGR TQ 7034 6237) all as shown on the Order Plan.

All directions are general and all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and plan have been placed on deposit along with an Explanatory Statement and may be inspected free of charge during normal office hours at the Council's offices at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling. Copies of the Order and plan may be purchased.

Any representations or objections to the Order may be sent in writing to the Chief Solicitor at the address below and should arrive not later than 21September 2009 and should state the grounds on which they are made. If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4LZ

Dated 17 August 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Highways - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HUNTER AVENUE, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new wastewater pipeline, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Hunter Avenue, Ashford as described in columns 1 & 2 of the Schedule to this Order, on or after 7 September 2009 for an estimated period of 5 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 3 of the Schedule

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Hunter Avenue	Between the junction with Orion Way and the junction Wharton Gardens	Hunter Avenue, Osborne Road, Breadlands Road, Twelve Acres and Hunter Avenue	From 7 September 2009 for up to three weeks
Phase 2			
Hunter Avenue	Between the junction with Wharton Gardens and the entrance to the Co-op car park	Hunter Avenue, Osborne Road, Breadlands Road, Twelve Acres and Hunter Avenue	From 21 September 2009 for up to three weeks

This Order will come into force from 7 September 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(KING STREET, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because sewer connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street from its junction at Cobden Place to the Northern Side of its junction with Knotts Lane on or after 24 August 2009 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for traffic will be as follows:

Local Traffic via Orange Street, Palace Street, Borough and St Radigunds Street.

Through Traffic via St Radigunds Street, The Causeway, St Stephens Road, Kingsmead Road, Northgate, New Ruttington Lane, Union Place, Union Street then as local traffic above.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WESTBERE LANE, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new cabling works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic at 34 Westbere Lane on or after 24 August 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Westbere Lane, Staines Hill, Island Road and Bushy Hill Road.

Highways - Districts of Dartford and Gravesham

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CYCLE TRACKS - SWANSCOMBE TO NORTHFLEET) ORDER 2009

In connection with the provision of the Swanscombe to Northfleet Cycle Track, the Kent County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 3 of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 has made an Order to convert footpaths NU2 and DS17 specified in the Schedule to this Order. The Order was made on 17 August 2009.

The effect of the Cycle Tracks Order will be that the lengths of footpath to which the Order relates will become highways which, for the purpose of the Highways Act 1980, are highways maintainable at public expense and over which the public will have a right of way on pedal cycles (other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles) and a right of way on foot.

The footpaths designated as cycle tracks by this Order are as follows:

Footpath No	District	Description
NU2	Gravesham	The entire length (approximately 190 metres)
DS17	Dartford	From the junction with footpath NU2 at Northfleet boundary to the anti-motorcycle barriers at the west side of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link bridge (approximately 308 metres, shared use with a width of approximately 3 metres)
DS17	Dartford	From the anti-motorcycle barriers at the west side of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link bridge to the junction with Stanhope Road, Swanscombe. (approximately 398 metres, segregated use with a width of approximately 3 metres)

A copy of the made Cycle Tracks Order, together with copies of relevant map may be examined at the at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford, Kent and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times

If you have any observations, representations or objections to the made Order you should send details in writing to the Transportation & Development Manager (Dartford & Gravesham), at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford, Kent or by email to consultations@kent.gov.uk by noon on Tuesday 21 September 2009.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, SANDWICH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Network Rail level crossing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Sandwich as described in columns 1 and 2 of the schedule to this order on or after 6 September 2009 for an estimated period of 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via described in column 1 of the schedule to this order is described in column 3 of that schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length affected	Alternative routes	Duration
New Street	Level crossing	Clockwise - St Barts Road, Woodnesborough Road, Moat Sole, Cattle Market, Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street. Anti-clockwise - New Street, Cattle Market, Moat Sole, Woodnesborough Road, St Barts Road.	01:00 Sunday 6 September to 04:00 Monday 7 September 2009
Ash Road	Level crossing	Anti-clockwise - New Street, Dover Road, A258, A256 Sandwich Bypass. Clockwise - A256 Sandwich Bypass, A258, Dover Road, New Street, Harnet Street.	01:00 Sunday 12 September to 04:00 Monday 13 September 2009

This Order will come into force from Sunday 6 September 2009 and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CHERRY TREE AVENUE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Footway Improvement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Cherry Tree Avenue from as described in column 1 of the attached schedule on or after 7 September 2009 for an estimated period of seven weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 2 of the attached schedule.

The Affected Route	The Alternative Route
Western side between London Road and Barton Road	A256 London Road and Buckland Avenue
Eastern side between Barton Road and London Road	Barton Road, Frith Road, Bridge Street and A256 London Road
Temporary One Way Street	
Affected Length of Road	Permitted Direction for Traffic
Western side between London Road and Barton Road	South to North
Eastern side between Barton Road and London Road	North to South

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BUNKERS HILL, ASH CUM-RIDLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Bunkers Hill, Ash Cum-Ridley for the whole length.

The Order will become effective on 7th September 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Rectory Road and New Street Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works and soak away cleansing.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PILGRIMS WAY WEST, HIGH STREET, OTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Pilgrims Way West, High Street, Otford between its junctions with Ivy House Lane in the west through to junction with A225 Station Road in the east.

The Order will become effective on 24th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last for 10 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A224 London Road, A25 Bradbourne Vale Road and A225 Otford/Sevenoaks Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
WATERY LANE, KEMSING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Watery Lane, Kemsing between its junctions with Honeypot Lane and Broad Oak Lane.

The Order will become effective on 24th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to start on 25th August and last for 5 nights between 20:00 - 05:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Watery Lane, Heaverham Road, High Street Kemsing, West End, Childsbridge Lane, A25 High Street Seal, Maidstone Road and Broad Oak Lane. For clockwise diversion route, access Childsbridge Lane from A25 via School Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARKES GREEN ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH BIRCHIN CROSS ROAD, KEMSING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Clarkes Green Road at its junction with Birchin Cross Road, Kemsing.

The Order will become effective on 24th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last for 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Magpie Bottom, Rowdon Lane, Birchin Cross Road.

Traffic coming from Cotman's Ash Lane and Tinker Pot Lane to go up Goodbury Road then follow diversion above.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate South East Water permanently reinstating a trench.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HILLSIDE STREET, HYTHE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new gas supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Hillside Street, Hythe from the beginning of Lucys Hill to the junction with Upper Malthouse Hill, between properties 30a and 36 Hillside Street on or after 7 September 2009 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Upper Malthouse Hill, Bartholomew Street, Malthouse Hill, High Street, A259 Dymchurch Road, Scalons Bridge Road, London Road, Barrack Hill and North Road.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(OTTERHAM QUAY LANE, UPCHURCH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because BT aerial renewal works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, between the junctions with Lower Rainham Road and Wallbridge Lane, on or after 24 August 2009 for an estimated period of three days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Wallbridge Lane, Oak Lane and Canterbury Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LOVE LANE, MINSTER, SHEPPEY HOSPITAL) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that kent county council has made the above named order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the road traffic regulation act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of schedule 9 to the act:

The Order has the following effect of introducing a prohibition of driving in :-

LOVE LANE from a point 2 metres south of the junction with Haywood Avenue/ Nunnery Grove (south)to the junction with Cliffhouse Avenue/ Nunnery Grove (north).

The Order was sealed on 27 July 2009 and will come into force 3 August 2009.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent,, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING)
(AMENDMENT No. 3) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2) and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

In this Notice "DYL" means no waiting at any time.

The effect of the Order further amends the Swale Borough Council (Various Roads) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Order 1988 and introduce no waiting at any time "double yellow lines" as follows

Wards Hill Road, Minster - DYL on the north-east side from a point 5 metres north-west to a point 80 metres south-east of the junction with Haywood Avenue.

Haywood Avenue, Minster - DYL on both sides from the junction with Wards Hill Road for a distance 10 metres in a north easterly direction.

The Order was sealed on 17 August 2009 and will come into force 24 August 2009.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent,, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LOVE LANE, MINSTER, SHEPPEY HOSPITAL)(20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called the Act? and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the Order introduces a 20 mph speed limit in Sheppey Hospital Development on the following roads:

Haywood Avenue	Entire length
Lady Winter Drive	Entire length
Cliffhouse Avenue	Entire length
Nursery Grove	Entire length

The Order was sealed on 27 July 2009 and will come into force 3 August 2009.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent,, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT No 21) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road:-

Fitzroy Avenue: on both sides from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 12 metres in a north easterly direction.

Upper Dane Road: on the north eastern side between points 12 metres north west and 6 metres of the junction with Fitzroy Avenue.

The Order was signed on 17 August 2009 and will come into force 24 August 2009.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT No 22) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL had made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road:-

Brooke Avenue (a) On the western side from a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 1 and 3 Brooke Avenue, in a northerly direction to the junction with Crow Hill Road;

(b) On the eastern side from a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 1 and 3 Brooke Avenue, in a northerly direction to the junction with Westfield Road;

Caxton Road (a) On the northern side from a point from a point 3 metres east of a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 3 and 4 Caxton Road, in a westerly direction to the junction with Maynard Avenue;

(b) on the southern side from a point in line with the common boundary Nos 3 and 4 Caxton Road, in a westerly direction to the junction with Westfield Road;

Crow Hill Road (a) On the northern side from a point 5 metres east, opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 1 and 3 Crow Hill Road in an easterly direction to the junction with Maynard Avenue;

(b) On the southern side from a point 7 metres east of a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 1 and 3 in an easterly direction, to the junction with Brooke Avenue;

Maynard Avenue (a) On the eastern side from a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 56 and 58 Maynard Avenue in a southerly direction to the junction with Westfield Road;

(b) On the western side from a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 56 and 58 Maynard Avenue in a southerly direction to the junction with Crow Hill Road;

Westfield Road a) On the northern side from a point 2 metres west of the common boundary of Nos 2 and 4 Westfield Road, in a westerly direction to the junction with Maynard Avenue;

(b) On the southern side from a point 3 metres west, opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 12 and 14 Westfield Road, in a westerly direction to the junction with Brooke Avenue

The Order was signed on 17 August 2009 and will come into force 24 August 2009.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Cecile Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CANTERBURY ROAD EAST, NETHERCOURT CIRCUS AND A SECTION OF NETHERCOURT HILL) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Canterbury Road East, Nethercourt Circus and a section of Nethercourt Hill from Royal Harbour Approach to Nethercourt Farm Road on or after 24 August 2009 for an estimated period of six nights (19.00 - 01.00) or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road East, Haine Road, Manston Road, Newington Road, High Street St Lawrence, Ellington Place, Grange Road and London Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 24 August 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WINDMILL HILL PLATT) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Windmill Hill Platt on or after Wednesday 26th 2009 for 7 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for eastbound traffic via Comps Lane, Seven mile lane and Maidstone Road, London Road and for westbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to carry out a double washout and valve arrangement dismantle . Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone on 01634 873290

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Section 14 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, hereby has made the following Order prohibiting and restricting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto:-

1. Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road (Necessary highway maintenance), that traffic on various roads in Tunbridge Wells in Column 1 of the schedule 1 hereto will be prohibited or restricted. The alternative route for each route is described in Column 2.

The order will come into operation on or after 24th August 2009 and will be valid for a maximum period of up to18 months or until the works are completed. (Whichever is sooner).

Details of the actual dates for the restrictions can be found in column 3 of Schedule 1 below.

4. This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Various Roads in Tunbridge Wells)

(Prohibition of Traffic) Temporary Order 2009".

SCHEDULE 1

The affected routes (Column 1)	The alternative routes (Column 2)	Start and Finish Dates (Column 3)
A262 Cranbrook Road, Goudhurst From B2079 Balcombes Hill to A229 Angley Road.	Eastbound traffic via A262 Clayhill, A262 Station Road, A21 Lamberhurst By-pass, A21 London Road, A268 Hawkhurst Road, Hawkhurst High Street, A229 Cranbrook Road, A229 Hawkhurst Road, A229 Hartley Road, A229 Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road, A262 Cranbrook Road. (And vice versa Westbound Traffic).	Start: 01/09/09 End: 03/09/0
A228 Maidstone Road (Colts Hill). From Woodsgate Corner to Badsell Road Roundabout.	Southbound traffic via B2017 Badsell Road, B2160 Gedges Hill, Madistone Road, A21 Hastings Road, A228 Pembury Road and A228 Maidstone Road. (and vice versa for Northbound traffic)	Start: 01/09/09 End: 11/09/09
C45 Speldhurst Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. From A26 London Road to Lady's Gift Road.	Westbound traffic via A26 St John's Road, A264 Mount Ephraim, A264 Bishops Down, A264 Langton Road, The Green, Speldhurst Road, Langton Road, Speldhurst Hill, Etherington Hill and Speldhurst Road. (and vice versa for eastbound traffic)	Start: 09/09/09 End: 15/09/09
C256 Golford Road, Cranbrook. From Tilsden Lane to a point 200m east of Chapel Lane.	Westbound traffic via C256 Cranbrook Road, Benenden Road, A262 Tenterden Road, A262 Biddenden High Street, A262 Sissinghurst Road, A262 The Street, A229 Angley Road, Waterloo Road, The Hill and Bakers Cross. (and vice versa for eastbound traffic)	Start: 10/09/09 End: 23/09/09
U2993 Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells. From A267 Frant Road to A26 Eridge Road.	Westbound traffic via A267 Frant Road, A26 London Road, A26 Eridge Road and Broadwater Down. (and vice versa for eastbound traffic)	Start: 24/09/09 End: 06/10/09
A262 Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells. From Halls Hole Road to A228 Maidstone Road (Woodsgate Corner)	Westbound traffic via Old Tonbridge Road, A21 roundabout, Longfield Road, Lamberts Road, Liptraps Lane, Birken Road, Sandhurst Road and Pembury Road. (And vice versa for eastbound traffic).	Start: 06/10/09 End: 15/10/09
A26 St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells. From A263 Grosvenor Road roundabout to Culverden Park.	Northbound traffic via A263 Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Highfield Road, High Brooms Road, Yew Tree Road, A26 London Road and A26 St John's Road. (And vice versa for southbound traffic).	Start: 29/01/10 End: 03/12/10
A264 Langton Road, Tunbridge Wells. From Major York's Road to Rusthall Road.	Westbound traffic via A264 Bishops Down, A264 Mount Ephraim, A26 St John's Road, A26 London Road, B2176 Bidborough Ridge, Penshurst Road, Rogues Hill, B2188 Penshurst High Street, Fordcombe Road, New Road, Saints Hill, Spring Hill, Fordcombe Road, A264 Ashurst Road and A264 Langton Road. (And vice versa for eastbound traffic).	Start: 01/02/10 End: 03/12/10

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Polo opens up city slot for VW

By **STEVE LOADER**

ORDER books are open for VW's all-new Polo, opening the way for the Up! – the likely name for the German marque's new city car.

With echoes of the stylish new Golf about it, the Polo has grown in size, allowing more elbow room for the Up! revealed as a concept two years ago.

VW's current city runabout is the Fox, no mean contender and built in Brazil to enable the car giant to turn a profit even in the hard-fought European market, but it's no head-turner.

As cars like the Fiat 500 and even the cheeky, if slightly dorky, Hyundai i10 show, economy car buyers also want personality. Early shots of the Up! show it will have that necessary character though and, if it can be built cheaply enough – a Indian production line is mooted – then it could be the image maker VW needs.

In the meantime, the Polo should add lustre to 34 years and four earlier generations though the previous model was more of a reheated version of the outstanding third generation car.

Customer deliveries start in October and the newcomer could be perceived as the Golf's toughest rival; it echoes the styling, comes with driver pleasing and safety enhancing ESP (electronic stabilisation programme) as standard and is priced from £10,035 for the 1.2-litre 60PS (59bhp) five-door – the three-door arrives in December.

LOOKING GOOD: VW's forthcoming city car contender the Up! certainly has character

Though bigger, the new Polo is lighter than its predecessor, supporting the current drive for lower fuel consumption and emissions.

It is arriving with five engine options, three petrol and two diesel, but expect much more choice including a 1.2 turbocharged petrol flier early next year as production picks up.

For now there are three unblown petrol units of 1.2-litre (60 or 70PS) and 1.4-litre (85PS) plus two 1.6-litre TDI diesels (75 or 90PS).

Interestingly, VW has also come up with an all-new trim for the Polo; the range opens with the usual S version while SE and SEL are upmarket options – with racy GTI and eco-friendly BlueMotion versions to come – but younger buyers are being targeted by the new Moda badging from £11,385.

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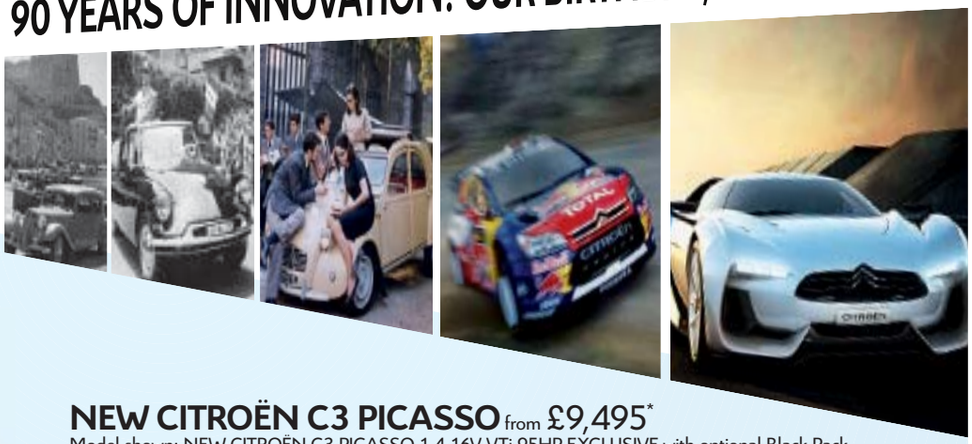

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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (RANGE): URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO_2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); HIGHEST: C4 HATCHBACK 1.6 16V VTi 120HP AUTO 9.9/28.5, 5.4/52.3, 7.0/40.4, 165. LOWEST: C4 HATCHBACK 1.6HDi 16V 90HP 5.6/50.4, 3.7/76.3, 4.4/64.2, 115.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Audi in hatchback denial

SNIFFY about hatchbacks for so long, German prestige brands are going for them big time now.

Audi is launching this A5 Sportback – also a celebration of the marque's centenary – while BMW is offering a 5-Series Gran Turismo.

They have been prompted by a global trend towards downsizing; both cars give upmarket buyers a chance to trade down without loss of style, while hatchback versatility balances the loss of a bigger boot.

The Audi A5 Hatchback – sorry, I mean Sportback – is being sold as an extension to the A5 Coupe line-up to give it a more premium image, but the stretched wheelbase allies it closely with the A4 Saloon and Avant (estate) and it could even steal sales from the bigger A6.

Available to order now priced from £25,440-36,220, the Sportback has generous head and legroom in the rear, plus that versatile rear hatch; it should also be a good drive, particularly in quattro format

The heat's rising in Ibiza

SEAT dealers next month launch the hottest new shape Ibiza supermini so far.

Prices are to be confirmed for the Spanish pocket rocket, but it looks superb and is packed with technology from Seat parent VW, including a big-hitting 150 PS (148bhp) 'twincharger' 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine.

Through the fitting of a supercharger and a turbocharger – a first in the supermini class – Seat has made a heavyweight out of a relative flyweight, while ensuring that sensible consumption and emissions remain within reach.

The hi-tech touch also includes VW's latest seven-speed 'DSG' or twin-clutch gearbox with steering wheel shift paddles fitted as standard for sporty manual gear selection.

Eco Golf owners' five-week cycle

DRIVERS covering 8,000 miles a year in the latest eco Golf need refuel only once every five weeks, says VW.

The claim is based on the Golf BlueMotion's frugal low emission 105PS (104bhp) 1.6-litre diesel averaging well over 60mpg – the official combined consumption figure is 65.7mpg.

The car's eco credentials are boosted by a Start/Stop package and braking systems that recover energy to recharge the battery, as on BMW's EfficientDynamics package.

This all helps the BlueMotion towards a CO2 emissions figure of 114g/km and qualifies for the £35/year minimum road tax bill, while company/fleet drivers can save £1,000 in benefit in kind tax over three years.

While not cheap – from £17,570 for the Golf Plus BlueMotion S, rising to £18,920 for the SE – it costs just £325 more than conventional equivalents in the Golf range; many other manufacturers charge considerably more as a green premium.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions 119g/km.

*Discount price of £4,495 relates to Matiz 0.8 S 5dr model only (for Aveo 1.2 S 3dr £5,995). Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Aveo £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th September 2009. Prices correct at time of press. At participating retailers only. £2,000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.08.99 when traded-in against a new vehicle subject to conditions and whilst Government funding applies. Offers apply to new vehicles ordered or registered between 07.07.09 and 30.09.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. †Subject to availability. (Chev78605)

by STEVELOADER

Mazda showing off

MAZDA is about to correct a glaring anomaly in its line-up after showing other carmakers how to shed weight and lower emissions.

It is re-launching the gas-guzzling CX-7 sporting SUV/4x4 with a new and far more eco-friendly 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine plus a 'family face' front end, as seen on the all-new Mazda6 and Mazda3 line-ups.

The reformed sinner is due on sale here in October, but gets its first public outing at next month's Frankfurt Motor Show when the Japanese Zoom-Zoom brand also exhibits its fuel-saving 'i-stop' start/stop system and rotary hydrogen powertrain technology, as well as the elegant 'Superlight' concept version of the classic MX-5 sportster (pictured here).

Billed as a show car only to highlight lightweight technology and underline the roadster's 20 years on the market, reaction will surely be taken into account for a next generation car.

It would be nice, for instance, if the Superlight's stylish headrest nacelles appear on a future version of the world's best-selling two-seat sports car.

The current MX has been given a family facelift like that given to the CX-7, which sharpens its styling without altering curvaceous lines carried over through three generations.

'Unique dealership' drops bikes for extra car brand

TUNBRIDGE Wells Suzuki has dropped the Japanese brand's motorcycle sales in favour of a new car franchise – fast-growing Hyundai.

Dealership sales manager Heath Mummery told us the site looked at franchise offers from other car companies for some time to help build business, but had hoped to maintain its unique status as a seller of both Suzuki cars and bikes.

"Unfortunately, we could not agree a way forward including bikes," said Mr Mummery.

"It's disappointing, especially as so many people working here are bike fans and it was part of our appeal to customers.

"But we are delighted to have Hyundai, which is doing particularly well for sales under the (Government) Scrappage scheme."

He admitted that there was overlap between the car brands, particularly in the booming city car and supermini sectors where the Suzuki Alto goes head-to-head with the Hyundai i10 and Suzuki's Swift meets Hyundai's i20, respectively, but he added: "We see that as offering more choice to customers and more opportunity to sell a car.

"A neighbouring business has also taken on a second franchise and that brings all car brands at this location [Dowding Way] to 10, so buyers know they can check lots of cars without walking more than a few yards or so – it's good for all our businesses."

He added that Korean brand Hyundai's five-year warranty also gave the site a new 'angle' with customers:

"Hyundai has done well with Scrappage and the people buying are clearly those who keep cars longer, since they are scrapping 10-year-old ones to get the deal.

"But warranty is starting to become more of an issue with most buyers – people want more peace of mind."

Hyundai signs are already in place and the large modern 11-car showroom, once home to cars and bikes, is now divided roughly 50/50 according to stock – and an official opening is planned at the end of the year.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), C02 Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

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Optional final payment plus credit facility fee and option to purchase fee	£4,426 £149
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5.9% APR Excess miles over 6,000 p.a.	typical 6p per mile

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Customer deposit	£1,999
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Acceptance fee	£99
Optional final payment plus credit facility fee and option to purchase fee	£5,341 £149
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Clio WSR 1.2 16V 75hp are: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 57.6(4.9), Combined 47.9 (5.9). The official CO2 emission figure is 139g/km and for the Mégane WSR 1.6 110hp are: Urban 30.7 (9.2), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 40.9 (6.9). The official CO2 emission figure is 162g/km.

*Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 15% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status. A guarantor may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) to apply for finance. Finance offer is provided by Renault UK and RCI Financial Services Ltd., P.O. Box 493, Watford WD17 1FJ. **Accident, Sickness and Unemployment cover is available free of charge for the first 12 months of the finance agreement and will cover your monthly finance repayments for a maximum period of 12 months. It is available with any RCI Financial Services agreement on new Renault vehicles. Terms and Conditions apply (please see the Key Facts and Policy Document available at your nearest dealer). Insurance provided by Pinnacle Insurance PLC, Pinnacle House, A1 Barnet Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 2XX. This offer applies to vehicles (excluding the Renault Twingo range, Clio Extreme and Clio Renaultsport) ordered and registered by 30th September 2009 and is available to retail customers only. This offer is correct at time of going to press and is available at participating FSA authorised dealers only.

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The Official Fuel Consumption figures in mpg (1/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the Hyundai i30 1.4 Hatchback are: Urban 7.6 (37.2). Extra Urban 5.2 (54.3). Combined 6.1 (46.3) and CO2 145 (g/km).
Warranty and offer only available on new cars purchased in the UK and source through Hyundai Motor UK Limited or it's authorised dealer. On the road (OTR)* prices include delivery, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. Terms and conditions apply. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press. Please note models portrayed for illustration purposes only.

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The Official Fuel Consumption figures in mpg (1/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the Suzuki Grand Vitara Range are: Urban 10.5 - 14.4 (26.9 - 19.6). Extra Urban 7.5 - 8.3 (37.7 - 34.0). Combined 8.6 - 10.6 (32.8 - 26.7) and CO2 205 - 245 (g/km).
†Finance subject to availability. (Over 18's only). Written quotations available on request. A guarantee may be required. All offers and vehicles offered are subject to availability while stocks last.
Please note models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. Details correct at time of going to print. *50% Deposit required over 2 years.**30% Deposit required over 3 years. #Price shown are after scrappage allowance.

Driving the posh Skoda

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Skoda Octavia L&K

SKODA keeps winning customer satisfaction and reliability surveys.

The familiar sight of Kent Police Octavia Estates also speaks volumes for the brand's dependability and everyday usability, but is there room for a 'posh' Skoda Octavia?

I have just driven 21 grand's worth of Octavia Estate wearing the Czech brand's coveted Laurin & Klement badge, and I still can't answer the question.

Few people have heard of it, possibly because the attention span of potential buyers crashes when asked to pay £2,800 or so on top of the more affordable Elegance trim.

Why Laurin & Klement anyway? The names come from mechanic Václav Laurin and bookseller Václav Klement who founded the Slavia bicycle firm in 1895 in Bohemia – then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

By 1899 this had evolved into motorcycle makers Laurin & Klement, which then started car production in 1905, creating increasingly luxurious models and also producing for the military.

By 1925 the company merged with the giant Skoda Works industrial combine to produce cars, trucks, buses, aero engines and farm machinery and the 'L&K' branding lapsed.

It has returned under Skoda's post-Communist era ownership by VW (from 1991) and plays upon the luxury status of 1920s models.

And the new age L&K wears its exclusivity well, despite the price tag and the fact that an entry level Octavia Estate costs £13,595 – on a par with a well specified supermini estate.

The L&K is actually a load lugger more capacious than most rivals on price, with a robust and durable cabin plus a shedload of extras.

Well-equipped

Over and above the already well-equipped Elegance, L&K spec includes bespoke 17-inch alloys, illuminated interior door handles, L&K kick plates, multi-function steering wheel, leather seats – with heated front pair and electrically-adjustable driver's seat – xenon headlights and ESP (electronic stability control) as on the vRS.

A recent facelift for the Octavia range – the model name is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary – makes it look sleeker than before and it is a pleasure to drive; the same exemplary chassis as the previous and current VW Golf delivers a mix of taut handling with decent ride.

But while I'm dithering on the merits of the L&K being worth the money, I'm also fretting on the best choice of powertrain; there is plenty to play with in the Octavia range overall, but going the L&K luxury route limits you to the turbocharged 160bhp 1.8-litre petrol engine as tested here or the 140bhp 2.0-litre diesel.

It is the tough call. The petrol engine is an

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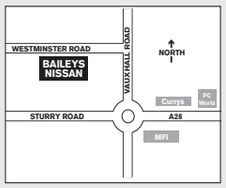

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The Government Scrappage Scheme is available from 18th May 2009 until the Government funding is utilised or until 28/02/2010 (whichever is sooner). The Nissan British Built Trade in Scheme (NBBTS) is available until 30/09/2009. Trade in vehicles under the Government Scheme must have been registered on or before 31/08/99 and under NBBTS between 01/9/99 and 31/08/01. The keeper of a trade in vehicle should have a UK address shown on the V5C and have been the registered keeper of the trade in vehicle for at least 12 calendar months before the order date of the new vehicle. Also a trade in vehicle must have a current MOT certificate at order date of the new vehicle and must be under 3.5 tonnes in weight. Under NBBTS there is no obligation to scrap any trade in vehicle and the new vehicle purchased must be a Nissan UK built vehicle (Micra, Micra C+C, NOTE, QASHQAI and QASHQAI+2 only). Full Terms and Conditions apply (see your local Nissan dealership for details). Schemes available at participating Nissan dealers only. Schemes not available in conjunction with Motability or any other offers. Terms and Conditions subject to change without prior notice. Excludes Channel Islands / Isle of Man. *Finance is available subject to status on eligible new vehicles registered between 1/07/09 and 30/09/09 in the UK to persons aged 18 or over. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition if you elect to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement. At participating dealers only. Nissan Finance, a trading style of RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 495, Watford, WD17 1FJ. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Offer shown is not available in conjunction with any other schemes or offers. Model shown is a 3dr Micra Visia 1.2 16v petrol manual with a normal on the road price of £7995 plus optional metallic paint at £395 inc VAT Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS.

excellent all-rounder, with good pulling power across a wide rev range and a 0-62mph time of less than eight seconds, yet sensible driving should mean an average of around 40mpg.

The diesel also has plenty of punch and will do the sprint in 9.6 seconds while averaging at least 10mpg better.

But does the diesel have the necessary refinement for the most luxurious Octavia, especially when it costs around £1,500 – not more outlay, you ask?

I would go for the petrol in this case and I can save you more cash by not opting for the DSG auto 'box as tested here – another £900 or so.

I am normally a fan of this gearbox by VW, which uses twin clutches to deliver seamless shifting in auto mode and particularly responsive selection when driven as a sporty manual.

In this instance, the 1.8-litre turbo and DSG do not mesh so well; it is hard to get the throttle pressure right to pull away on loose or wet surfaces and the scrabbling is irritating after a while – it might be easier with a manual.

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DrivingStats

- Skoda Octavia L&K 1.8 TSI DSG Estate £20,995
- Range: £13,595-21,350
- Garage stats: 4.57m by 1.70m five-door estate
- Powertrain: 1,798cc/160bhp four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a seven-speed DSG auto gearbox
- Performance: top speed 138mph and 0-62mph in 7.9 seconds
- How green?: band G (£150/year) road tax - 155g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 42.8mpg
- Euro NCAP occupant safety rating (0-5 stars): ****
- Fuel tank: 55 litres/12.1 gallons
- Insurance group: 12E
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles.
- Website: www.skoda.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo 159, Ford Focus, Honda Jazz, Hyundai i30, Kia Ceed, Peugeot 308, Renault Megane, Saab 9-3, Seat Exeo ST, Toyota Yaris, Vauxhall Astra, Volvo V50 and VW Golf.

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*Source: Independent Market Research Sagitta Consultancy 2006. **Source: B E Stats June 2008.

AUDI

A3, 1.9tdi special edition, 2007, grey metallic with grey cloth sports seats, 56000 miles, £11899, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RS6, CAT D REPAIRED, 2003, grey with black leather, 27000 miles, £13995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

TT, 3.2 Quattro DSG, 2009, blue met, 21000 miles, £12497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

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BMW

3 SERIES, 325 i se manual touring, 2001, crystal green met with green cloth, 122000 miles, £2999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320ise coupe manual, 2007, sapphire black metallic with beige dakota leather, 9000 miles, £17899, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 535dse auto, 2005, blue metallic with black dakota leather, 101000 miles, £12999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520d m sport auto, 2006, silver metallic with black dakota sport leather, 63800 miles, £16899, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 4.4i v8 auto, 2002, silver metallic with beige leather, 76400 miles, £9899, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0d Sport 5dr Auto, yc04mdf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. insurance group:17, black, 60000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C4, 1.6HDi 16V VTR Plus 5dr, aj54hrz, adjustable seats, , air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, silver, 73000 miles, £5895, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6HDi 16V SX 5dr [110] [Non-DPFS], gk56nvg, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:5, grey, 40000 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec 5dr NEW 59, INC SCRAPPAGE, TERMS APPLY, gl09feo, price after government scappage incentive. 5 miles, £10195, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr, ap08nnf, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, 17 alloy upgrade, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding insurance group:7, grey, 28102 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr*****SPORT PACK LEATHER*****, ek58ypg, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, 18 alloys, ford direct vehicle, rain sensing wipers, sports pack, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, electrically adjustable seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, silver, 14525 miles, £14295, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8 Titanium 5dr, oe08kkb, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, balance of 3 year warranty, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:8, silver, 26251 miles, £11000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr*******SPORT PACK 3*******, ng08hhr, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, balance of 3 year warranty, 18 alloys, rain sensing wipers, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:8, grey, 25693 miles, £12495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Titanium 110 5dr [DPF], ea58axk, auto lights and wipers, climate control air conditioning, blue, 3980 miles, £14995, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr, ej08ytt, grey, 7990 miles, £14490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Titanium 110 5dr [DPF], ea58axk, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, remote locking, colour coding body. insurance group:8, blue, 3741 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8 Zetec 5dr - SPORTS PACK ZETEC, ng08hhz, metallic vision. sports pack zetec, privacy glass, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child seats, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, tinted glass. blue, 24000 miles, £11695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Zetec 5dr - PRIVACY GLASS & 16 ALLOYS, oe08eof, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, radio/cd. silver, 25500 miles, £10695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Zetec 5dr - PRIVACY GLASS, nl08ysv, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, heated screen, locking wheel nuts,insurance group:7, silver, 26668 miles, £10695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr - SPORT PACK 2, pk08bso, sport seats, sports suspension, 17 alloys, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit, cd multichanger, central locking, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, side airbags, steel wheels, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:7, silver, 25206 miles, £10995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 110 5dr [DPF] - SPORTS PACK 2, ea58nxk, sports pack body coloured rear spoiler, sport seats, sports suspension, privacy glass, 17 alloys, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, rear armrest, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, sports seats, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:7, blue, 2655 miles, £12995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr - SPORT PACK 3, ng08hko, partial leather trim, heated front seats, sports suspension, body coloured rear spoiler, esp, folding mirrors, sony stereo, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit, central locking, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, black, 26100 miles, £13995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Titanium 110 5dr [DPF] - TITANIUM X PACK, ea58wxm, 18 alloy wheels, front and rear park assist, heated front seats, full leather seats, privacy glass, sony player, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, heated seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, side airbags, tinted glass. insurance group:8, silver, 11500 miles, £13995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 1998, green, 86786 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, lx, 1998, met green, 61000 miles, £800, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 2000, blue, 75000 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4TDCi Zetec, 2009, vision, 3000 miles, £12495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4 TDCi Zetec, 2009, hot magenta, 2400 miles, £12795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Style Climate, 2007, ocean blue, 14957 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Ghia 1.6 TDCi, 2006, tango red, 17000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 1000 miles, £11495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, moondust silver, 2000 miles, £10995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, jeans, 17586 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2007, moondust silver, 14000 miles, £8495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Ghia Automatic, 2006, moondust silver, 10000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6TDCi Zetec Climate, 2006, amethyst, 39400 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, vision, 1500 miles, £11795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 3dr [Climate] - SPORT & TECH PACK, wj57gzp, privacy glass, folding mirrors, auto headlights, auto wipers, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, black, 37825 miles, £7495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr, gl07ubd, adjustable seats, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:4, red, 7300 miles, £7495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec Blue 3dr - SPORT & TECH PACK, gl57kdj, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, auto headlights, auto wipers. insurance group:4, black, 5600 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 TDCi Zetec S 3dr - STREET PACK, gk09ods, quickclear, side skirts, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:4, white, 2500 miles, £14495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [82] - CITY PACK & BLUETOOTH, gj09uat, power folding door mirrors, rear parking sensors, 2nd remote key, bluetooth with voice control, abs, electric windows, insurance group:4, black, 6000 miles, £12995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr - FULL LEATHER, wu58jxy, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, blue, 14077 miles, £8495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Style 3dr [Climate], gl56ddx, metallic apple. abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, green, 21422 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 TDCi Zetec S 3dr - FULL LEATHER, ej57oac, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:6, silver, 13394 miles, £8995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0 ST 3dr, gk57txc, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:13, blue, 19500 miles, £9995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [82] - BLUETOOTH, gl58gfv, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, head restraints, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, radio, side airbags, rear headrests. insurance group:4, blue, 6500 miles, £10995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [Climate], gl06tgo, metallic amethyst. abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:4, mauve, 30300 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr - FULL LEATHER, na07vlc, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, silver, 22926 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0 ST 3dr - FULL LEATHER, gf07bno, park assist, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:13, red, 18800 miles, £9495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [Climate] **SPORTS+TECH PACK**, wm08gyu, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:4, black, 5607 miles, £8490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style + 3dr [82], nc58fkt, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, central locking. insurance group:4, black, 11031 miles, £11490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [82], mj58okl, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:4, red, 11815 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 3dr [Climate] **ONLY 27521 MILES**, am03ylt, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, computer, driver airbag, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests, electric heated door mirrors, heated front windscreen, air conditioning. insurance group:4, red, 27521 miles, £5490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr, am03ylt, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, red, 27521 miles, £5490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr **FULL LEATHER**, bg08xck, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, blue, 20299 miles, £8490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5dr**NEW SHAPE + ?35 RFL**, cv58uny, metallic squeeze. abs, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:4, green, 9143 miles, £12490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 3dr, ea58cev, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:4, black, 7327 miles, £12490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr [Climate], bv58hxn, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, mauve, 13502 miles, £9490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [Climate], de08rgz, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, insurance group:4, black, 8546 miles, £9000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5dr*****DIESEL ?35 YEAR TAX*****, ea58jrv, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, ford direct vehicle, adjustable seats, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, radio, black, 6517 miles, £12695, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [82], mj58vuf, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. silver, 11829 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Zetec S 3dr, ca58bdf, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, 17 alloy wheel upgrade, quickclear heated screen, street pack, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, balance of 3 year warranty, 17 alloy upgrade, adjustable seats, body kit, central locking, colour coding body, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, power assisted steering. insurance group:6, white, 11171 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr**********NEW SHAPE**********, am58mxp, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, black, 11922 miles, £12295, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0 ST 3dr, gj06dcz, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, esp, quickclear heated screen, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, privacy glass, adjustable steering column/wheel, anti theft system, body kit, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, foglights, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, radio/cd. insurance group:13, black, 21621 miles, £8495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [Climate]***SPORT AND TECH PACK***, gf08ewn, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, balance of 3 year warranty, bluetooth, privacy glass, sports pack, central locking, colour coding body, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, silver, 8138 miles, £8000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr Auto*******AUTOMATIC*******, nl09rxg, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, adjustable seats, insurance group:4, black, 6000 miles, £13495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [Climate], lv08vep, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, radio, black, 10348 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec Blue 5dr AUTO LIGHTS+ WIPERS BLUETOOTH, gn08kxo, 7000 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Titanium 3dr******INDIVIDUAL******, gj09dou, metallic hot mangenta. abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, individual leather pack, quickclear heated screen, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, balance of 3 year warranty, bluetooth, full leather, power folding door mirrors, privacy glass, rain sensing wipers, adjustable seats, anti theft system, climate control, colour coding body, colour coding interior, head restraints, heated screen, leather seats, leather upholstery, immobiliser, metallic pai, red, 7000 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr [Climate], kc06sxe, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, metallic paintwork, blue, 37204 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

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AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY AUCTIONS
MONDAY 31st AUGUST

This is our most popular and well attended Auction Day of the year, attracting hundreds of buyers from far and wide, in the Bank Holiday `Feelgood Mood`, with many record prices achieved. Over 500 vehicles offered for Auction throughout the day, ranging in price from a few hundred pounds to many thousands

ENTRIES TO THE FOLLOWING AUCTIONS ARE NOW BEING INVITED

Sports and High Performance Auction
Starts at 1.00pm

Typically offering in excess of 100 Sports and High Performance Cars, ranging in price from £500 to £35,000.

Four Wheel Drive
Starts at 11.00am
Approximately 80~100 Four Wheel Drive vehicles

Commercial Vehicle Auction
Starts at 4.00pm
Approximately 50~60 commercial vehicles

General Car Auction for cars £1000 and over
Starts at 3.00pm
Approximately 100~150 cars on offer, all makes and models.

General Car Auction for cars under £1000
Starts at 12.00noon
Approximately 100~150 cars on offer, all makes & models.

NOTES FOR ALL SALES

Although entries are accepted up to 7.00pm on Sunday 30th August, we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage.

Our website has over 1000 visits each day, and as well as a description of your vehicle, we can now include photographs.

To book your vehicle in instantly on the internet, simply visit our website at www.hobbsparker.co.uk and click on "Car Auctions", then click on "Add Vehicle to Sale List".

As well as our usual opening times, we shall be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm Sat 29th and Sun 30th August to take entries. **Regrettably no entries will be accepted on the sale day.**

All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.

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FORD

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr ******NEW SHAPE*******, gn58sxu, metallic ocean. abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:3, blue, 6 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec Blue 5dr***BLUETOOTH HANDSFREE***, cv58sye, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, all vehicles. blue, 11914 miles, £9000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA **SPORT VAN**, lv58gxl, panel van, alloy wheels, cd player, electric windows, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, warranty. blue, 1801 miles, £7890, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.5 ST-2 3dr, ex58wur, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, headlight washers, side airbags, radio/cd, auto lights and wipers, climate controlled air conditioning, esp traction control, heated front windscreen, metallic paintwork, park distance control, power assisted steering, remote locking, spoiler, blue, 17990 miles, £16990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr [Euro 4], nd07bbf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:10, black, 24760 miles, £10990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Titanium 5dr, kw08frf, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:7, blue, 25338 miles, £11790, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi Sport 5dr [110] [Euro 4], ng07eoh, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:6, black, 44055 miles, £7990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto, nl58tlk, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, insurance group:7, grey, 10999 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 TDCi Titanium 5dr - SPORTS PACK TITANIUM, wr08zyb, 18 alloy wheels, sports suspension, esp, auto wipers, auto headlights, sony stereo, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, sports seats, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:7, black, 28735 miles, £12695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr - FORD DIRECT, gf58hlx, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:7, black, 17220 miles, £11495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 3dr - SPORTS PACK TITANIUM, bt08oan, 18 alloy wheels, sports suspension, esp, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:10, black, 26858 miles, £12995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Ghia 5dr [115], gk56uhr, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights,,radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:6, blue, 4000 miles, £8495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr - AUTO - FORD DIRECT, nb08lwk, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, rear headrests. insurance group:7, blue, 11871 miles, £10995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr - FORD DIRECT, yt58uap, morello. abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, foglights. insurance group:7, red, 8800 miles, £10995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Titanium 5dr [115] - PART LEATHER / SONY CD, gn06olm, sony stereo, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:7, blue, 45615 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5dr [Euro 4], gl06gkp, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:9, blue, 35702 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.5 ST 5dr - ESP / POWER START BUTTON, oe08lwk, bluetooth hands-free phone system, esp, ford power start, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, anti theft system, body kit, central locking, cloth upholstery, climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, sideskirts, spoiler, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. insurance group:17, please call les bellchambers for further details, white, 11500 miles, £16495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi Zetec 5dr [110] [DPF] - SPORTS PACK ZETEC, gj08xez, metallic avalon. sports pack zetec, 17 alloy wheels, privacy glass, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:7, blue, 22000 miles, £11495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr [110] [DPF] POWERSHIFT, ea08syo, rear parking sensors, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows, side airbags, radio/cd, auto headlights, auto wipers, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, anti theft system, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen,. insurance group:10, silver, 9000 miles, £13995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 3dr [Climate pack], gd07ogm, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:6, grey, 19846 miles, £8495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 Zetec 5dr [Climate Pack], oy08swn, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, sony all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, air conditioning, central locking, colour coding body, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork. blue, 26100 miles, £10000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, black metallic with black and beige two tone leath, 50000 miles, £6999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6 3dr, lb08uaw, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, remote locking. insurance group:8, silver, 4000 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 CZ2 ClearTec 5dr, gk09nwl, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, blue, 3000 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.3 CZ2 3dr, gk09nwm, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, white, 6000 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

I-CAR, 5dr Auto, gn57uta, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, tinted glass, reduced from, black, 14000 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab DI-D Warrior 4WD 134Bhp, ny06gha, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child seats, climate control, computer, cruise control, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control. insurance group:10, silver, 29000 miles, £10995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab DI-D Warrior 4WD 134Bhp Leather, gk09nxm, 100 miles, £15995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab DI-D Diamond 4WD Auto 165Bhp, fe57ohf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, heated seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, navigation system, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control. insurance group:19, blue, 21500 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr CVT, lx08zrf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, saving, blue, 6800 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08ycg, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving_, silver, 9000 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr, wn08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:11, grey, 12000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr, lx57xsl, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, dvd, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering. insurance group:11, silver, 17300 miles, £15495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr *Leather*, wv08tya, ellectric mirrors, leather gearknob, tinted windows, airbag double + side, cd player, fog lights, electricdoor mirrors, metallic paint, leather steering wheel, 18 light alloy wheels, adjustable seat height, air-conditioning, boardcomputer, silver, 3000 miles, £18495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 DI-D Elegance 5dr Auto, lv56hpk, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear armrest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, grey, 24750 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 DI-D Elegance 5dr Auto, gf56elx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear armrest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, silver, 33500 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NISSAN

350Z, 3.5 V6 GT Pack, mf57vzp, leather, charcoal, 18'' alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, air-conditioning, alarm, bose audio system, brembo disc brakes, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, electric heated front seats, electronic stability program (esp), front side and curtain airbags, power assisted steering (pas), remote control keyless entry, trip computer, xenon headlamps, universal silver, 9000 miles, £18495.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

ALMERA, 2.2d se+, 2001, silver, 0 miles, £2995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIGARO, 1.0 turbo auto, 1990, green and white with white leather, 132000 miles, £3999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS TEKNA, oe08pfn, cloth, carbon, 16'' alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), automatic lighting system, automatic rain sensing wipers, battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front fog lamps, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), rear park system, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, caf? latte, 13000 miles, £8795.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

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A RISE IN INTEREST RATE: Footfall is up more than 25 per cent since the opening of the Range store at the Dockyard Outlet Centre

Range of benefits for outlet centre

By NEILL BARSTON
business@kosmedia.co.uk

THE arrival of a new department store has "transformed" the Dockside Outlet Centre in Chatham, leading to hundreds of new jobs and paving the way for several new stores.

Since opening in May, The Range, trading in home furnishings, gardening and household goods, has had a major impact on the shopping venue's footfall, with figures up more than 25 per cent.

It has also led to the creation of several new businesses on the Chatham Maritime site, boosting its projected quarterly sales figures amid the national backdrop of lean trading conditions.

Dockside centre manager Anthony Sutton said: "We were looking for something that would be quite different for Medway and we thought The Range would be just what we needed. Previously we didn't have stores offering the range of products it has. It has been phenomenally successful since it launched and has transformed the centre.

"It's an exciting development for the area as it is the first of this national store to come to Kent. They are normally standalone stores, so it's good that we have them here."

The 40,000 square foot store required the relocation of several of the existing units on the site.

Mr Sutton added: "As well as the 65 staff that are employed by The Range and the 20 staff for other new stores there were many more employed during the construction period which began in January. This created a total of 250 jobs and a number of those on the construction side have been retained."

Mr Sutton explained that four further stores had been opened on site as a direct result of The Range's success, including bookstore Books to Go, Brand Fusion clothing retailer, Home Curtains and Bedding, plus a florist and bridal store, Slinders.

Though Mr Sutton declined to reveal the centre's turnover, he said he believed it had been performing well despite admitting trading had been "tough" during the recession.

He explained that the latest shopping addition would contribute strongly to an increase in annual customer visitor figures to 2.5 million per year.

The Range stores stock 65,000 products across 16 departments, which includes electrical products, leisure goods, pet care, a gardening section and arts and crafts materials.

Mobile firm makes move into Africa

MOBILE telecoms firm Synchronica has agreed another lucrative deal to expand its mobile email technology into Africa.

The Tunbridge Wells-based firm has received an order worth more than £150,000 from a mobile operator in north Africa to use its Mobile Gateway technology, which enables even the most basic handsets to receive email via text and picture messaging.

The agreement will allow a further 70,000 users in the region to receive email and PDFs using SMS and MMS technology, in addition to an initial 20,000-user licence signed last month.

Synchronica's software allows any handset from smart phones to entry-level devices to use push email.

The expansion into Africa follows inroads in South America and Asia, though Africa is expected to grow faster than any other region over the next three to five years according to a report from Ernst & Young.

Carsten Brinkschulte, CEO at Synchronica, said: "This deal once again validates our strategy of using major network equipment providers to scale our business on a global basis and reach as many countries and operators as possible.

"Our award-winning Mobile Gateway product is increasingly recognised by operators as an invaluable tool to attract new customers, drive additional revenues and reduce customer churn.

"Because our product works across the range of handsets, operators can introduce data services to the mass-market and is particularly attractive in emerging markets like Africa."

Regeneration at breakfast event

A FREE business breakfast will focus on the regeneration of Medway.

Medway Means Business will be hosted by Medway Council and will feature presentations about current developments and the effect of the recession on firms. The event will be at 7.45am on September 8, at the Innovation Centre, Maidstone Road, Chatham.

To book a place email business.support@medway.gov.uk or for more information call Wayne Saunders on 01634 338138.

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Airport bucks trend with its freight record

KENT International Airport enjoyed a record-breaking July, with thousands of tonnes of cargo handled and figures showing freight levels had increased by more than half in a year.

By **ALEX HOAD**
alex.hoad@kosmedia.co.uk

During July more than 3,450 tonnes of freight passed through the airport at Manston, near Ramsgate, beating the previous best July figures recorded in 2003 by more than 220 tonnes.

In the financial year to the end of July, the freight-tonnage at KIA has shot-up by 64 per cent compared with 2008.

The jump is attributed to the arrival of new operators at the airport and additional flights by existing carriers.

Established operators Cargolux, MK Airlines and Egyptair have been joined at KIA by Allied Aviation, Kuzu, Air Charter Express, ACT, Meridian and Iris Air, with the majority of the freight being fresh fruit and vegetables from Kenya and Ghana destined for supermarket shelves.

KIA chief executive, Matt Clarke, said the airport was bucking the current trend in the industry, with most airports and carriers seeing a drop in air cargo traffic.

Mr Clarke said: "These results highlight the resilience of the freight business at KIA.

COMPETITIVE: Manston airport, left, has been able to respond to new freight demands

"In a time many are describing as a crisis for aviation we have experienced steady growth, as cost-conscious airlines seek facilities that can deliver value for money and operational advantages over congested hub airports."

Nico LeRoux, freight development manager for Infratil Airports added: "The industry is very price-sensitive, and we are able to offer competitive pricing for specialised freight-handling facilities, delivering fast and convenient access to the London distribution centres.

"This combination is winning us business as in this economic climate every minute spent waiting on the apron to be unloaded counts, making Kent International Airport an ideal substitute for the larger and more congested London airports."

KIA management also claimed the £1m investment in new ground support vehicles and a fleet of customised forklift trucks had been significant in attracting new business to the airport.

Mr Clarke added: "When new airlines come to Manston to view our operation they are impressed at what they see.

"We have in place a slick team of highly trained aircraft handlers with modern equipment and the word is getting out."

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How to make the most of 2012 opportunities

AS THE UK prepares to host the world's greatest sporting event in 2012, businesses are being urged compete for billions of pounds worth of contracts.

There are hundreds of contracts available on www.competefor.co.uk, the website for the London 2012 Olympics.

More contracts – each worth up to six-figures – are likely to be advertised as work on the venues nears completion, with construction and landscaping firms set for a host of opportunities over the coming 18 months.

To help business owners to understand the requirements and bidding process for London 2012 and other public sector work, Business Link Kent is running a free workshop named Fit2Supply.

Paul Toben, Business Link's 2012 Manager, said: "This workshop is for any company looking for new business.

"It explains what London 2012 and public sector buyers are looking for, how to find out about opportunities, how to register to receive alerts of new contracts and typical mistakes when applying that can easily be avoided."

He added: "Kent businesses are ideally placed to take advantage of the many contracts available.

"Keep an eye on CompeteFor over the next few months as contracts related to the staging of the games offered by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) will begin to be listed."

Many companies in the region have already won lucrative London 2012 contracts, while smaller businesses have won contracts within the supply chain.

Designers and printers, language translators, office cleaners, website designers, drainage engineers and media training consultants are just some of the services which will be required.

The Fit2Supply workshop will take place on Thursday, October 8, at Eurokent Business Park, Ramsgate.

To book a place call 01732 878555 or go to the website www.southeast2012events.co.uk

Taxing issues resolved

Q ***I work for a building contractor and have been offered the use of a company van outside of work hours. Are there any tax implications I need to be aware of if I use the vehicle privately?***

A All employees will pay tax on a company van made available to them for private use only if they actually use it for private journeys other than commuting. Before April, 2005, employees still had a benefit in kind charge applicable if they received any form of private use of the company van, including home to work travel.

The taxable benefit in kind for unrestricted private use increased to £3,000 from April 2007, and will mean that a basic rate taxpayer who has private use of a van will pay tax of £600 per year.

Private use is classified as using the van to do the supermarket shopping or using the van for social activities outside of work. If you also receive free or subsidised fuel, a further benefit in kind of £500 will be due, resulting in a further tax liability of £100 for a basic rate tax.

However, employees who have to take the company van home, but are allowed no further private use, or have insignificant private use, will not be subject to a benefit in kind charge.

Examples of insignificant use include an employee who stops at a newsagent on the way to work or calls at the dentist on the way home.

If this does apply, ensure you keep mileage records relating to the use of your van, ask your employer to amend your contract of employment, and ensure you sign an agreement about the van use only being allowed for home to work travel.

Q ***I have a number of clients who are really poor payers. This is causing me a significant problem with my cashflow, as sometimes I have to pay my supplier for the materials before I have received any payment for the work undertaken. Can I charge interest if my clients do not pay me?***

A All businesses have a legal right to claim interest from late-paying business customers, but not individuals. The statutory right to interest applies to all contracts agreed after August 7, 2002, and gives you the right to charge interest at the Bank of England base rate plus eight per cent. The base rate for the current period to December 31, 2009, is 0.5 per cent, so you can charge interest at 8.5 per cent.

The statutory right to charge late-paying business customers interest applies to contracts which do not already include their own arrangements for 'substantial' interest.

If there is no agreed credit period in your terms of business, the law sets a default period of 30 days. You can charge interest 30 days after you delivered the goods or provided the service, or 30 days after you notified the purchaser of the amount of the debt – whichever is the later.

Ideally, to notify the purchaser of the amount of the debt, you should send an invoice that includes details of the credit period, but any other form of notification would do, including a phone call – though that might be difficult to prove if there is a dispute.

All organisations also have a right to claim reasonable debt-recovery costs. Creditors can claim an extra £40 for debts of up to £1,000, £70 for debts from £1,000 up to £10,000 and £100 for debts of £10,000 or more.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Priscilla Bull of the Maidstone branch of TaxAssist Accountants – a specialist in managing tax and accountancy affairs for small business owners – answers questions about tax and finance.

• Priscilla Bull of TaxAssist Accountants in Maidstone can be contacted on 01622 671 580.

Answers and advice are offered strictly on the basis that no legal liability is created thereby. Personal circumstances may vary and TaxAssist Direct Ltd advises that individuals seek personal professional advice in all situations. Information in Questions and Answers are accurate at date of publishing.

Make web history by joining Mile Long club

AN ONLINE advertising billboard which if printed out would be a mile long is being set up by an enterprising couple looking to raise funds to get married.

Mile Long Advertising is the creation of Tunbridge Wells couple Joe Trinder and Sam Kendall, who say their prime motivation behind the creation is to raise money for their wedding.

But they also plan to donate more than £2,000 each to five charities and make internet and advertising history.

The billboard will be made up of more than 5,300 individual internet banners advertising thousands of brands, websites, businesses, blogs and individuals and totals 160,934.4 centimetres in length – more than three Empire State Buildings on top of one another.

Viewing it on an average 20-inch monitor, the billboard would run for a whole mile and stretch for 5,670,805 pixels.

Miss Kendall said: "We're really excited to finally start the mile-long billboard after so much preparation.

"It's a big project that can help so many businesses, individual people and charities. It will be a huge achievement for us."

The couple say they hope the billboard will set a new Guinness World Record as the longest of its type in history and the first to achieve an actual mile in distance.

They added that any website owner, business, blogger or individual is encouraged to help achieve the milestone by paying a small one-off fee to advertise for life on the billboard and hopefully become part of internet history.

To join the billboard or for more information visit www.milelongadvertising.com

University looks east for funding

THE University of Kent could be in line for a slice of millions of European cash after furthering its links with the Far East.

The university is building on its existing links with China by taking part in the Linking Sino-European Universities through Mobility (LISUM) project.

The scheme – which involves 10 universities from the EU and 10 from China – has been awarded £4.5m funding by the European Commission.

The University of Kent is the only UK representative in the project, which aims to promote better understanding of the regions and lead to an exchange of people, knowledge and skills.

Staff and students will have the opportunity to receive mobility grants through the scheme.

Professor Alex Hughes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for external affairs at the University of Kent, said: "LISUM is an excellent opportunity for us to strengthen links with existing and new partners in China and to work with our colleagues across Europe.

"The University of Kent is delighted to be part of this exciting programme, which underlines our international outlook and will offer further opportunities for our students to experience an international dimension to their studies, either at first hand or through the teaching of visiting academics."

Still something to AIM for?

A NUMBER of leading businesses in Kent are struggling to meet red tape demands placed upon them by the Alternative Investment Market.

AIM – the London Stock Exchange's international market for smaller growing companies – attracts a range of businesses including early stage, venture capital backed as well as more established companies seeking access to growth capital.

Sittingbourne-based pharmaceutical services firm VivoMedical recently delisted from AIM, blaming their exit on a "disproportionate amount of senior management time spent in meeting AIM rules and related regulatory requirements, including reporting, disclosure and corporate governance requirements".

The market grew dramatically when it launched more than a decade ago but has struggled with the impact of the credit crunch.

Quotations which peaked in early 2008 are down more than 15 per cent, and worse is expected to come for the 95 firms in the region still listed.

Geert Struyven is corporate finance partner at accountancy and business advisory firm Horwath Clark Whitehill's branches in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

HCW has a number of AIM-listed clients and has helped several through the listing process.

Here Mr Struyven gives us the low-down on the market, how to join, the benefits and drawbacks, and what the future may hold.

How a company gets listed

The AIM admission process has been designed with smaller companies in mind and is relatively free of bureaucracy, at least when compared to listing on the Main Market.

All prospective and existing AIM companies must appoint and retain a nominated adviser, whose role is to confirm to the Exchange that a company is appropriate for AIM, as the Exchange does not review the suitability of the company themselves.

The nominated advisers will co-ordinate the due diligence process, which will help them assess the suitability of the company for AIM. The due diligence process will explore issues such as the background and qualifications of the company's directors and the history and projected development of the company.

The listing process involves the preparation of an admission document, which will be circulated to potential investors, and hence is prepared in accordance to regulatory and professional standards.

Once admitted to AIM, the company will be required to disclose certain matters on an ongoing basis, such as any changes to the board or significant shareholders, or any developments that may influence share price.

Why should they list?

AIM gives companies that are not large enough to list on the Main Market the opportunity to raise capital, and can therefore be an effective way to fund growth or an acquisition.

By listing, a company can enhance its credibility and status with potential investors and increase its profile with global customers and suppliers. Being publicly listed is also likely to count in a company's favour when it comes to raising further money from banks.

What are the pros and cons?

The pros:

- Access to equity funding, in particular from institutional investors.
- Provides a market and objective valuation for shares.
- Allows a company to use its shares to fund acquisitions.
- Listing gives company credibility and kudos with investors, customers and suppliers and improves its public profile.
- Flexibility of AIM (no specific suitability criteria for companies to qualify for admission, and no requirement to have a designated number of shareholders. Rules are also tailored to the needs of growing, acquisitive companies without the requirement for quarterly reporting).
- Efficiency improvements required may lead to improvements in the company's systems and controls.
- Unquoted status for taxation purposes (has considerable benefits and encourages investment by private individuals).

The cons:

- Exposure to market conditions (share price affected by factors beyond company's control).
- Potential loss of control (sale of equity involves releasing degree of control to shareholders).

LOW-DOWN: Geert Struyven has helped several companies through the AIM process

- Disclosure requirements and ongoing reporting.
- Management time (flotation process and continued requirements will take management time away from running the business).
- Directors' responsibility and restrictions (greater disclosure of, for example, salaries).
- Lock-in arrangements (common practice for directors and existing shareholders to agree not to sell their shares for 12 months from admission).
- Costs involved (both set-up and ongoing).

Is interest waning in AIM? And if so why or why not?

The introduction of the AIM market in 1995 has been a great success, considering the number of companies listed on the Exchange. More recently, as with all other public markets AIM has been affected by the economic downturn, and in particular the lack of available investment. The AIM market index has dropped far more in percentage points over the last few months than the FTSE All Share index.

So far this year, only three new companies have entered the AIM market. The number of companies on AIM has also dropped from 1,694 companies at the end of 2007 to 1,413 at the end of June, with the market capitalisation of all companies combined dropping from £97,561 million to £47,844 million.

AIM has attracted a lot of companies at the early stage of development and overseas companies, and in the current market it is unlikely that investors will find these very attractive propositions. Hence, fund raisings have dropped significantly and, this year, only £1,658 million has been raised. However, liquidity in AIM shares has never been better, with, on average, more than 692 million shares traded daily in 2009.

Given the difficulties in raising finance, maybe one ought to consider reversing into an AIM-listed cash shell. XL Media recently quoted research stating there are 31 shells with over £48m cash on their balance sheet. However, in my opinion, until the public market recovers, companies seeking expansion capital should either see if they qualify for the Capital for Enterprise scheme (up to £2m) or towards Private Equity investors.

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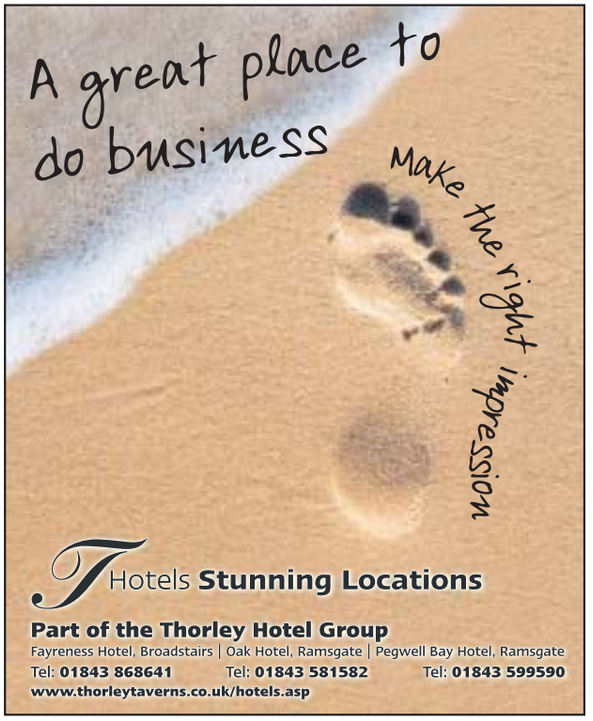

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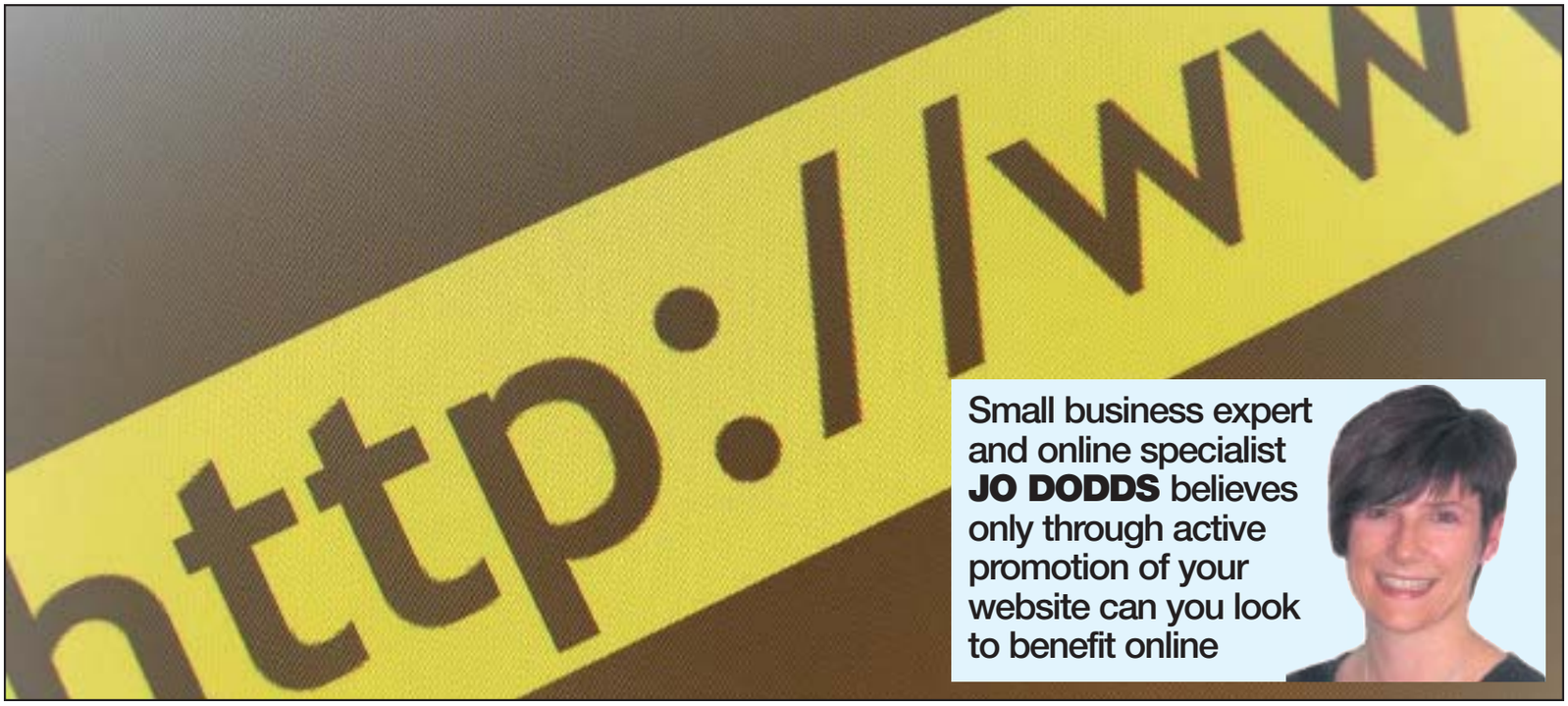


Small business expert and online specialist **JO DODDS** believes only through active promotion of your website can you look to benefit online

Get your business linked up

PROMOTING your online business couldn't be easier. Simply get connected to a network of new opportunity.

Marketing your local business online involves promoting your url (website address) any which way you can.

Promoting your website url online is pretty much the be all and end all of internet marketing when you think about it, although it's not as quick and easy as that short phrase sounds. In the coming weeks we will continue to pick this process apart but, first, our overview.

The two main strategies that you need to apply to your website to ensure that it is working for your business are: search engine optimisation (SEO) and link-building.

SEO is all about providing fresh, relevant content that your readers and search engines can pick up, focusing on the keywords and keyword phrases that you have determined.

You can do this in a number of ways: by creating a landing page on your website for each of your keyword phrases.

For example, if you are a plumber and one of your keyword phrases is 'how to fix a leaking tap', make sure you have a page that readers can 'land on' that answers that question.

The page then needs to provide the reader with the relevant information they are searching for, but which also meets your professional needs, in this case explaining when the job will require your services and what you offer to ensure that it is fixed properly.

'A key strategy to promote your website is link-building'

If someone looking to fix a leaking tap 'lands' on that page of your site they will get the information they need and the search engines will be happy as you are providing rich content.

You can also do this by adding a blog to your website or writing articles and online press releases to put on your own site or on other sites specifically created for this purpose, such as www.ezinearticles.com. Alternatively, you can write them to go on other businesses' websites in a related field or in your local area.

The second really key strategy to use to promote your website online is link-building.

I would guess that many people assume this is all about asking other businesses to add you to their website links list.

That is one way of getting links and can be especially useful if the other site belongs to a local business with a well-indexed site and a Google Pagerank (ie Google recognises the site has some value, some of which is passed along with a link from it, known as 'link love'), but link-building is much more than that.

Incoming links (and, as a result, actual visitors – it's not just about search engines) can come to your site from so many places and for so many reasons.

We will go into this in more detail in other articles but for now here are some of the ways to get useful links back to your site.

Directories

Get listed on online directories, including national ones such as www.yell.com; local business directories such as www.counterpointnetworking.co.uk and www.thebestof.co.uk; individual trade organisation directories; and general business directories like www.bizwiki.co.uk.

Some of these directories are free and some are paid for, so when deciding which to get listed with, do some online searches for your keywords and see who comes up.

Get onto Google Maps – it's free, so if you're not on there yet, get it sorted.

Our picture-framer has no website of his own but he's on Google Maps and has had at least two customers in the last few months who found him on there.

Use social-networking sites, such as Facebook; LinkedIn; Twitter; YouTube; Flickr; and Digg – they all give you an opportunity to have links to your own site.

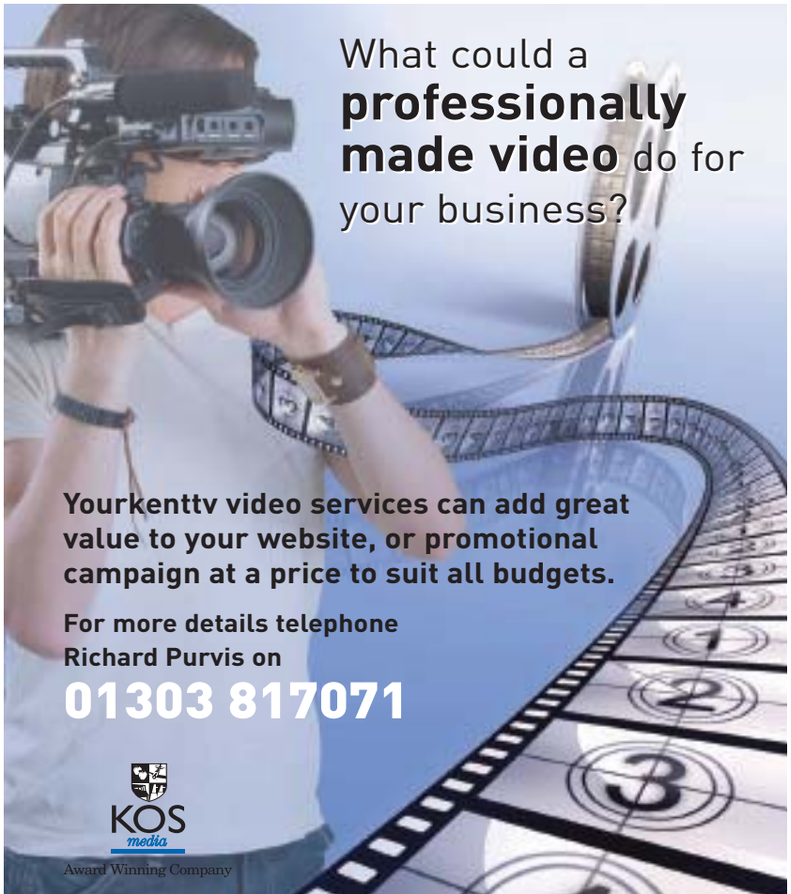
Not all pass on Pagerank (most of these listed don't) but they do provide other very useful promotion opportunities.

For example, you can put links to your website in your status updates on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, so you can promote a new article or blog post you have written and automatically link your blog to your profiles.

YouTube also acts as a search engine. It's not as big as Google but a few videos about your business, with the right keywords in the description and with links bac k to your site, can be really useful.

That should be enough to keep you going.

• Jo Dodds teaches, coaches and supports small-business owners to set up and market their own easy, cost-effective and search-engine-friendly websites. Check out www.counterpoint-matters.com for free content and webinars about online marketing for small businesses.



Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

1909

100 YEARS AGO: AN 'old county player', writing in The Sportsman, lamented the loss of the younger Woolley brother, Claude, a product of the Angel Ground nursery system, to Worcestershire.

"Several county clubs have entertained angels unawares and only discovered their loss when too late… Kent, like Surrey, Yorkshire and Lancashire have done in the past, are suffering an 'embarrass du riches' and sooner or later they may learn that Tonbridge is a nursery for other counties besides their own," he wrote.

Claude Woolley went on to play for Gloucestershire and Northants, before becoming an umpire.

1959

50 YEARS AGO: FRANK Woolley, now working as a newspaper columnist, said: "I hope we never have to experience such bad wickets again," after a patchy week of cricket at Dover in which Kent easily beat Northants, but then lost by seven wickets to Gloucestershire.

The total amount of cricket played during Dover 'week' came to just over three and a half days.

Colin Cowdrey was named vice-captain of the MCC touring party to the West Indies, with David Sayer also in the frame. Sayer was named as one of 29 possibles for the squad and had been bowling well before sustaining a hip injury.

UNHAPPY: Woolley

Future Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty and Welsh international keeper Jack Kelsey were included in an Arsenal cricket side due to play an exhibition match at Horsmonden (the Gunners were subsequently thrashed).

Two bookies were sentenced for taking bets they subsequently welched on after a greyhound meeting at Dumpton Park in Ramsgate.

1984

25 YEARS AGO: A CROWD of 8,000 at Folkestone watched the future Sir Richard Hadlee ruin Kent's hopes of a decent finish in the John Player League with a superb five-over spell that removed Neil Taylor, Chris Tavare and Mark Benson for 25 runs. Nottinghamshire won by six wickets.

With the Football League successfully stonewalling attempts by semi-professional clubs to ensure automatic promotion and relegation from Division Four, Gillingham chairman Charles Cox confidently predicted the Football League would soon be reduced to a rump of 60 clubs, with "natural wastage" leading to a streamlined competition.

Prolific scorer John Bartley hit a hat-trick for Maidstone United, one of the clubs trying to break into the Football League cartel, as they beat Runcorn 5-1 in the Gola League, less than a month after undergoing surgery for a kidney complaint.

Life was proving tougher for Southern League newcomers Sheppey United however.

The Ites', who played at Botany Road in Sheerness, dreadful start to the season continued when they were beaten 1-0 in the Bill Dellow Cup at Tonbridge, having been thrashed 6-1 at Addlestone a few days earlier.

Dame Kelly's golden tale worthy of being on the silver screen

Going over old ground

By FRED ATKINS

IF CRITICS are to be believed even film director Quentin Tarantino is running out of ideas at the moment, but nobody has yet hit upon a story that could be an obvious box-office success – a film of the life of Hildenborough's Kelly Holmes.

The ending is obvious enough: the Olympic Stadium, Athens in August, 2004, and the emotionally charged 800-metre final, when the future Dame's life was transformed forever.

The look on Kelly's face when she finally realised she'd won gold has to be one of the most moving sporting moments ever caught on camera.

And in the interests of accuracy, Kelly's film should perhaps start at the Sussex Road School in Tonbridge back in 1982, where she competed in her first-ever race, representing Hugh Christie School.

The scene might depict a nervous, skinny 12-year-old with an afro haircut, shivering on the start line, wearing knee-high socks, plimsolls and her school PE kit. Standing next to her is a Stacey Washington, the top local athlete who has all the latest gear and overtakes the heroine 200m from the line.

GOLDEN: Kelly Holmes wins in Athens

You could cut to her teacher Debbie Page at the finish, telling her to join Tonbridge Athletics Club, where she meets her coach Dave Arnold.

All of this is detailed in her autobiography, Black, White and Gold. The book moves along at a dizzying pace, but one of the joys of reading it is in the number of namechecks there are for local people and places.

The tone is relentlessly upbeat throughout, even though her life was far from easy.

Born in Pembury Hospital in 1970, Kelly was abandoned by her biological father, Derek Holmes before she'd reached her first birthday and her teenage mother Pam struggled to cope. Yet the picture she paints of her childhood, at the family home in Riding Park, Hildenborough and the nearby Brook, is idyllic.

When she decided to give athletics a serious go, Arnold would train her at the local rec, on a two-mile trek up to Hildenborough Church or on the running track in the grounds of Tonbridge School.

Unless you've spent the past decade living in a Tibetan monastery or the Kentish equivalent (Shellness perhaps?) you'll know what happens next: the Army, a career dogged by injuries, thoughts of suicide, but ultimately one of the most uplifting endings possible.

Film-makers are forever taking liberties when it comes to facts and locations – the fabled opening sequence of Chariots of Fire, which was supposed to be Broadstairs beach, was in fact shot at St Andrews in Scotland, but this is a story that needs no embellishments – from Tarantino or anyone else.

Mavericks make play-offs for the first time

THE East Kent Mavericks are set to embark on their first foray into the British American Football League play-offs after completing their superb campaign with a win.

The Canterbury side travelled to Maidstone Pumas and recorded a 42-0 win in a game that was marred by the sudden touchline death of 26-year-old Pumas offensive lineman Alan Newcombe.

The victory ensured East Kent had a better record than nearest-challengers London Olympians in Division 2 South East – though officials are awaiting the league's ruling on a washed-out game at Colchester Gladiators earlier this summer. Should the league decide to award each team the points for a 0-0 draw, as is expected, the Mavericks will be confirmed as champions.

Club chairman Glenn Lindley said: "It has been an outstanding season. We have been working towards this for four years.

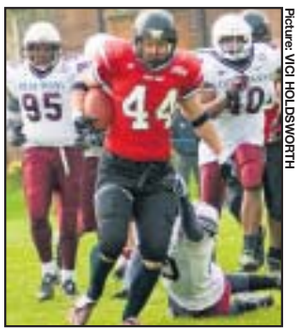
Exceptional

"At the start of last year we thought we had a good chance of getting to the play-offs, but in the end we came up two games short.

"We have definitely gotten better as a team this year, but we have also attracted some exceptional athletes who have made us a lot stronger. We will give it our best and hopefully we can secure promotion."

The Mavs face a knockout trip to Hampshire Thrashers, winners of the South West Division, on August 30, where a win would book a tie with East Division champions Colchester Gladiators on September 6.

If they overcome the Gladiators they will book their place in the play-off final against the winners of the northern and scottish divisions at Doncaster's Keepmoat Stadium on September 27.



Picture: VICI HOLDSWORTH

PLAY-OFF: East Kent Mavericks

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POINTING THE WAY: Tim Reeves will be hoping to make up the eight-point gap on championship leader Ben Birchall
Picture: WALLY WALTERS

Reeves gets upgrade in bid to reclaim title

New engine on board for race in Croatia

By FRED ATKINS

VICTORY isn't absolutely imperative for Tim Reeves at this weekend's FIM Sidecar World Championship meeting in Croatia, but with an eight-point gap to leader Ben Birchall, the triple World Champion has little margin for error.

"It all depends on what the other guys do," he told Kent on Sunday.

"There are only eight points covering the first three and we're all pretty much of a muchness so I might not need to win, but I never go out there to come second."

Reeves, who'll again be partnered by his brother Tristan in today's double-header, only received his engine on Wednesday morning, the day he was due to fly out to the circuit in Rijeka, on the Adriatic coast.

"Preparations have been going well, but we've just had the engine back so I've not had time to test it yet," he said. "We were 10kmph slower than everyone else in the last race and we've had a bit of an upgrade."

That could be the key for the Wateringbury-based rider, who despite his disdain for second place, opted to settle for the runners-up slot at the last race on the Sachsenring in Germany.

Reeves pushed leader Birchall hard until a collision damaged his gear lever.

"It wasn't enough to stop me, but it was enough to make it extremely difficult to change down the gears, so I decided to settle for second and take the points," he said.

The final round takes place on the famous Le Mans circuit in a fortnight.

"Going into the last round we could do with a bit of a lead, so hopefully we'll be able to get at least one win this weekend," Reeves said.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

ICE MAN: AJ Smith (white) has re-signed

Dynamo coach impressed by squad's fitness

INVICTA Dynamos return to training next week with coach Kevin Parrish already happy with the squad's fitness levels.

The club's league season gets underway at home to Oxford in a fortnight's time and most of the squad have attended optional sessions to prepare for the campaign.

Full training begins on Tuesday, but Parrish is pleased with the condition of his players, which is better than usual at this time of the year.

He said: "Everyone's looking good which is quite surprising because in August the fitness is not normally there.

"I think they've looked at how competitive the league is going to be this season and kept themselves in shape, so we've had some good high tempo sessions."

Optimistic

AJ Smith is the latest of last season's squad to commit to another season at the Gillingham Ice Bowl. Andy Smith is likely to follow suit next week and Parrish is promising a big signing before the season begins on September 6.

The Mos coach is also encouraged that one of his main concerns this summer appears to be resolving itself.

It was feared Joe White, who was instrumental in the side's success last season, would not be able to play this season after taking a job as a police community support officer.

The netminder is still awaiting clarification on his shift schedule, but Parrish, who has signed Shane Kemp as cover, is optimistic White will be able to play the majority of games next season.

He said: "We're not sure what's going on, but I can't see it being a problem.

"To have two goalies such as Shane and Joe is a great duo to have, it will be like having two number ones which is fantastic competition."

Ohio collision continues Conway's run of poor form in Indycar series

MIKE Conway has four races left to salvage his Indycar season, starting with today's race in Sonoma, California, on the Infineon Raceway.

The Sevenoaks racer has only broken into the top 10 once this season and he was a disappointing 20th in the last round at Lexingtonton, Ohio.

The Dreyer & Reinbold driver moved up to 12th from 16th, but fell back after making contact with Danica Patrick on lap 44.

OFF TRACK: Mike Conway

"I had a good start and picked up a couple of positions," he said.

"I battled it out with a couple of people and we were going to try a different strategy and run the Firestone Alternate tires as much as we could. We came in on lap seven and were hoping for a yellow [flag] to come out."

Hitting Patrick was the turning point, according to Conway.

"It was working well for us and I went for a move on Danica and she didn't give me much room either and we ended up touching," he said.

"I carried on with my steering being bent. After that we were running some quick laps.

"It was a shame and I think we could have moved forward. We definitely improved the car and hopefully we can carry that on to Sonoma."

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England call-up holds no fears for new boy Joe

AFTER three years of experience in county cricket, Kent's Joe Denly believes he is ready to perform for England on the international stage.

The 23-year-old was named in the England squad for the One-Day International and Twenty20 fixtures against the Australians that begin after the fifth Test at the Oval, as well as the Champions Trophy in South Africa in the autumn.

IN-FORM: Joe Denly

Denly is the only uncapped player in the 15-man squad, but county skipper Rob Key once again misses out after having made the provisional 30-man squad for the trophy.

The Canterbury-born right-hander, who has scored 680 first-class runs this summer at an average of 42.50 and 425 at 60.71 in one-day games, feels his performances in all forms of cricket has led to the call-up.

He told Kent on Sunday: "My four-day stuff has been pretty good this season and my form in one-day competitions has also been okay, so I'd like to think I have got some recognition for what I have done in all forms over the season.

"The experience with the England Lions showed that I can play and hopefully I am not too far off a Test call."

The England selectors have adopted a new policy of giving players an extended run in the side compared to the notorious 90s when Ted Dexter, Fred Titmus and Raymond Illingworth gave a whole new meaning to an 'England career' with players being given one game before they were cast onto the scrap heap.

While Denly admits the new style of selection is likely to give the Kent batsman confidence in expressing his ability, he wants to stay in the side on merit.

"It's nice to know that I am in the squad, but I don't yet know if I'm going to play, although if I get a chance that will be fantastic," he said.

"It's nice knowing the selectors give players a good chance in a side, but I want to perform straight away if given the chance and keep my place in the team because I am doing well."

If Denly is selected for any of the games it's likely to be in his preferred position as opener, unlike fellow opener Rob Key who was made to bat at number six in his one and only appearance for England in the ICC World Twenty20.

And while Denly admits representing his country will be a "dream come true", he believes he has the experience to be successful on the international stage.

He said: "I have always said that representing England is the most important thing and doing that in a Test match would be the ultimate for me. I have played for three years and I feel I am experienced enough to go into international cricket, but I don't want to do okay, I want to go in and do well and put my mark on it."

Farbrace keen to address bowling unit on his return

EXCLUSIVE

By GLENN PEARSON

PAUL Farbrace has delayed his return to the county after agreeing to stay with the Sri Lanka team for the tri series competition with New Zealand and India.

Kent's new head coach was expecting to arrive in England this weekend and intended on joining up with the county squad on September 1, but the Sri Lanka assistant coach has agreed to stay with the national side until September 14.

The Sri Lankan board had asked Farbrace to stay until the end of the Champions Trophy, which finishes on October 5, but the 42-year-old wants to see Kent in action before the end of the season.

As a compromise, he will stay with Sri Lanka for the Test series with New Zealand, the two Twenty20 games against the Black Caps, and the tri series.

It means Farbrace, who takes over from director of cricket Graham Ford, will arrive in England on September 15, where he will meet up with the coaching staff on the second day of Kent's penultimate County Championship game of the season against Leicestershire at Canterbury.

Speaking from Sri Lanka, Farbrace told Kent on Sunday: "I was asked to stay until the end of the Champions Trophy and as a compromise I will be staying until the end of the tri series.

"I want to see the team before the end of the season and sit down with Graham Ford, Simon Willis (coach) and Phil Relf (Academy director) to talk about the winter and how the whole thing is going to work.

"The key thing is Graham Ford is going to work with us on a consultancy basis, although that isn't nailed down yet, and I want to talk with him and the other coaching staff about players, overseas targets and the existing playing staff."

The former Kent Academy director is keen not to pass judgement on players or the team's performance from afar, but has hinted that the county's policy of giving youngsters a chance in the Pro40 competition will give the club a chance to make decisions about their cricketing future.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

IN CHARGE: Head coach Paul Farbrace is to hold talks with Kent's coaching staff

Future

There is, however, one key area Farbrace and the Kent staff are keen to shore up.

"It's pretty obvious there are areas that need strengthening this winter," he said.

"The batting line-up looks to be a decent unit, but it's no secret that we want bowlers.

"It's pretty obvious we need fast bowlers. With some of the younger players like Warren Lee and Phil Edwards getting a go in Pro40 that gives us a chance to make a decision about their future.

"Guys like Robbie Joseph, Simon Cook and Amjad Khan are not going to be able to bowl over after over, so we need to make sure we have cover for them."

Gills academy puts young stars on national teams' radar

Pictures: ADY KERRY

CHANCE: Jack Payne

GILLINGHAM'S centre of excellence is gaining a welcome reputation for producing promising players, after an unprecedented four youngsters received international call-ups, ***writes David Pritchard***.

Ashley Miller and Stephen Butcher spent four days in Burton this week with the England development squad.

Their under-15 club-mate Josh Maughan has already captained Wales and is in the squad to face the Republic of Ireland next Sunday, while first-year scholar Jack Evans will join up with Wales' under-17 age group tomorrow for a training camp.

National call-ups are not entirely new for Gillingham's centre of excellence, but most recently Ryan Bertrand and Luke Freeman were selected after they left for Chelsea and Arsenal respectively.

The vast majority of players in the national squads are from Premier League clubs' academies, so League One Gillingham are punching above their weight to have four players involved.

GILLS YOUNG GUNS: Miller, Maughan and Butcher

Bryan Bull, Gills' centre of excellence manager, is delighted with the quartet's achievements, which he believes reflect well on the youth set-up as a whole.

"Just to have one player recognised is fantastic, so to have four at the same time is superb," he told Kent on Sunday. I think once you get one or two players through, your name becomes a bit more known.

"There are a limited number of scouts and they can only get to so many games so they'll target their time towards the higher level, but if you have a reputation for producing players they will pick up the phone and talk to us.

"You very often hear that if you're not with a big club you won't make it – but this shows that's not true."

There is also a clear path from youth sides to first-team football at Priestfield, with manager Mark Stimson unafraid to throw youngsters in at the deep end. The latest product is Jack Payne, 17, who has kept new signing Kevin Maher out of the side so far this season.

Stimson said: "Jack Payne's taken his opportunity. I've always said if you're good enough you're old enough and he's proved that because he's been outstanding."

'Time to put failure aside and end the season on a high'

Picture: ADY KERRY

ANOTHER ONE GONE: James Tredwell's success with the ball makes him the second-highest wicket-taker in first-class cricket

THE big disappointment of last weekend's Twenty20 Cup finals day was followed on Monday by a further disappointment on a personal level that my name was not among those selected for England's limited-overs matches against Australia.

But, overall, I could not be happier with the way my cricket is going.

This has been a memorable summer for me so far and now I am just determined to finish it off with a strong personal showing over the last weeks.

Most importantly, if I continue to play well and add to my tally of 57 first-class wickets and 389 runs, it will most likely mean that Kent win promotion back to the first division of the County Championship.

And that, especially after last weekend's Twenty20 Cup semi-final defeat to Somerset, is what matters most of all now.

In terms of England, too, I feel that if I finish off the season well I will put my name right in the frame for a winter tour place.

It was only 18 months ago, after all, that I was in New Zealand with the senior England team for the ODI leg of their winter tour there. I haven't heard anything from the England selectors since that trip, but I very much hope that my performances this summer might get me back in the international frame.

I know I did not play particularly well last season, but I feel I have come back strongly this year.

At least at Northampton recently, when I took 10 wickets in the match as we beat Northamptonshire to stretch our lead at the top of the championship, England selector James Whitaker was in the crowd.

He was no doubt mainly watching Monty Panesar, Rob Key and Joe Denly – who fully deserves his own England call-up for the one-day matches against Australia, by the way – but I hope he noticed me too.

I am absolutely delighted with the way my bowling in particular has gone this summer, after all the hard work I did in the winter months and the work I have done with Min Patel on the tactical as well as technical side.

Before the start of the last round of championship games, I was second on the national list of first-class wicket-takers behind Graham Onions, and just ahead of Steve Harmison.

Getting wickets early in the season was very important for me following that preparation, and from then on it has simply been a case of my confidence building more and more from game to game, and keeping in rhythm.

In the first innings at Northants there was also a bit of bounce in the pitch, which helped me to get three of my five wickets caught at short-leg off bat and pad, and despite injuries to our quicker bowlers it has been a key factor in our rise to the top of the table that we have four times managed to bowl out sides in less than two sessions in the fourth innings.

The injury to Ryan McLaren, in addition to Robbie Joseph's, has hit us quite hard in recent weeks, even though Amjad Khan is beginning to get back to his best after his own lengthy injury lay-off. Simon Cook has done brilliantly in all forms of the game to help to make up for the absences of others, but how often have we been able to field our first-choice fast attack this season?

In the Twenty20 Cup semi-final, it was a case of Marcus Trescothick getting a flier and then taking the game away from us. He is a magnificent striker of the ball and we simply had to get him out earlier than we did.

We did not bowl as well as we can up front. It was very disappointing not to be able to do better on the day, but to have reached Twenty20 finals day for three years in a row should still be a real source of pride.

Talking of which, the win in the Pro40 at Leicestershire on Tuesday night was a real triumph for some of our younger players.

Paul Dixey rightly won himself a few headlines by hitting a six and a four off the third and fourth balls of the final over to earn us a dramatic victory, but both Sam Northeast and Alex Blake also batted extremely well earlier in our innings and Phil Edwards has done well with the ball over the past fortnight.

• ***James Tredwell, the Kent all-rounder, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

Picture: ADY KERRY

WANTED: Kent have missed Ryan McLaren

Willis hopeful of having McLaren back for run-in

RYAN McLaren is in a race against time to be fit for Kent's crucial last five games in the County Championship.

The all-rounder picked up a side strain in the championship win against Derbyshire earlier this month which has kept him out of the team for two four-day games, Twenty20 finals day and the Pro40 campaign.

His loss was felt most at Edgbaston last weekend as Kent missed out on a place in the final of the Twenty20 Cup and a Champions League berth.

The club's coaching staff and physio, Nimmo Reid, are working with him on a daily basis to ensure he can play some part in the championship run-in.

Coach Simon Willis said: "It's pretty slow progress to be honest. The injury hasn't healed as quickly as we would have liked and we are having to assess him on a week-by-week basis.

"Any cricket he can play before the end of the season would be a big boost."

While McLaren's injury is keeping him out of the side, one bowler that could become available before the end of the season is Robbie Joseph.

It was hoped the fast bowler would be able to play in a second team game two weeks ago, but the 27-year-old felt some discomfort in the shoulder injury beforehand and wasn't risked.

He has, however, been bowling in the nets this week and the club are hopeful he will make a return to the side in the coming weeks.

Willis said: "Robbie has had a bowl in the last few days which is encouraging. We will now look to give him a run in the second team before trying him in any games as a chance to see how he reacts."

Kent starlets get a taste of Ashes action at Oval

TWO of Kent's promising young players took to the field in this week's crucial fifth Test between England and Australia at the Oval.

Sam Northeast and Alex Blake were called on to act as 12th man for England in the Test match that started in Kennington on Thursday.

Picture: ADY KERRY

SUB: Northeast

The pair, who have both featured in Kent's Pro40 campaign this season, joined the England side in the dressing room and were called onto the field several times during the course of the first three days of play at the Oval.

Northeast, the England under-19 opening batsman, has made five appearances in the County Championship this season with a top score of 87.

Blake, a left-handed batsman, has been away at university for the majority of the season, but has made two appearances in Pro40.

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MOTORSPORT
Tim Reeves looks to take the lead in World Sidecar Championship **69**

CRICKET
New Kent head coach speaks exclusively about his plans **70**

Picture: ADY KERRY

BIG DAY: Lisa will run in today's final

Classy Dobriskey hopes to erase Olympic disappointment with gold in Berlin today

By DAVID PRITCHARD

LISA Dobriskey goes for glory in Berlin this afternoon as she competes in her first World Athletics Championships final.

The 25-year-old from Ashford is hoping to go at least one better than her fourth place finish in the 1500 metres at the Beijing Olympics last summer.

Dobriskey's participation in the championships was in doubt earlier this summer due to a season ravaged by injury, but she is now hoping to get on the medal rostrum this afternoon.

She said after the semi-final: "I would love to, that's a really big ambition of mine.

"I'm so grateful to be here, it's been such a difficult journey here even to get to the championships. I'd love to repay all those people who have helped me, it would mean so much."

A top-three finish would represent the pinnacle of Dobriskey's career so far, beating the Commonwealth gold she won in Melbourne three years ago.

Despite a lack of training this summer she looked in good form to post the third quickest time in Tuesday's heats.

Friday's semi-final, where she finished in third place, was also safely negotiated avoiding a repeat of the bad luck she suffered in the previous World Championships when she lost a shoe at the same stage two years ago.

The final begins at 4pm.

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BIG SAM WARY OF GILLS TEST

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID PRITCHARD

SAM Allardyce is bracing himself for a difficult game against Gillingham when he takes a full-strength Blackburn Rovers to Priestfield in the Carling Cup on Tuesday night.

The Rovers boss will buck the trend of many top-flight sides who field a mixture of reserves and teenagers for the competition.

Champions League-winning defender Michel Salgado is expected to make his debut after leaving Real Madrid, along with £6 million Croatia international striker Nikola Kalinic.

Although two divisions separate the sides, Allardyce is fully aware of the threat Gillingham will pose.

He said: "I know Gillingham like to play their football and the manager is doing very well there. It will be a tough test, an opportunity for Gillingham to make a headline or two and we will be on our guard.

"The League Cup is very important, the last competition Blackburn Rovers won, and it is a route into Europe. The Premier League will always be the priority, but the chance to win a cup is always appealing and exciting. We will have a strong squad for Tuesday night."

Whatever the result, the game will provide Gilllingham with an unexpected financial windfall. It could help manager Mark Stimson land his targets before the transfer window closes in 10 days' time.

About 8,000 fans are expected for the game, which could be the biggest gate of the entire campaign at Priestfield. With extra income from sponsorship and corporate bookings, the tie should net the club approximately £50,000.

Mark Jones, Gillingham's chief executive, told Kent on Sunday the money was an unforeseen bonus.

Blackburn boss will send out big guns in Carling Cup clash

Picture: REX FEATURES

"We don't budget for beyond the first rounds of the cup competitions," he said. "It's not being negative, it's just what every club does, so this is early windfall money for us."

A lack of financial clout has hindered Stimson's attempts to sign main targets Chris Dickson and Danny Jackman, with Charlton and Northampton respectively unimpressed by the Gills' approaches.

With less than a fortnight remaining before the window closes, the Gills boss acknowledged the Carling Cup money could help.

"Possibly, it would definitely come in time," he said. "We are just looking to fill our stadium because financially that's what we're in this competition for. We're never going to win it, we know that, so what we've got to try and do is earn as much money out of it as we can."

There are similarities with the club's FA Cup run last season, which culminated in a televised third round tie against Aston Villa. From the proceeds – admittedly higher than the Blackburn game – the Gills were able to sign Andy Barcham for the rest of the season.

After beating Championship side Plymouth in round one, Stimson is relishing the chance for his side to go up against a top-flight outfit.

He said: "The bigger the team you beat the more confidence you get. Plymouth are a good Championship side and the way we performed against them helped the boys grow and play with more belief.

"They've [Blackburn] got a fantastic manager and a fantastic team. It's good experience for myself and also the players to go against a Premier League side."